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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	W1200-00034
First Inventor	Aman Safaei et al.
Title	INTERACTIVE INTERNET WAGERING ...
Express Mail Label No.	EL554220927US

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09/703171
10/31/00

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

1. [X] Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) *(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)*
2. [ ] Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. [X] Specification [*Total Pages* 54] *(preferred arrangement set forth below)*
   - Descriptive title of the invention
   - Cross Reference to Related Applications
   - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
   - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
   - Background of the Invention
   - Brief Summary of the Invention
   - Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
   - Detailed Description
   - Claim(s)
   - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. [X] Drawing(s) *(35 U.S.C. 113)* [*Total Sheets* 19]
5. Oath or Declaration [*Total Pages* 4]
   a. [X] Newly executed (original or copy)
   b. [ ] Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d)) *(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)*
      i. [ ] DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. [ ] Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76
7. [ ] CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program *(Appendix)*
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all necessary)*
   a. [ ] Computer Readable Form (CRF)
   b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
      i. [ ] CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
      ii. [ ] paper
   c. [ ] Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. [ ] Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. [ ] 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement *(when there is an assignee)* [X] Power of Attorney
11. [ ] English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
12. [ ] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [ ] Copies of IDS Citations
13. [ ] Preliminary Amendment
14. [X] Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) *(Should be specifically itemized)*
15. [ ] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. [ ] Other: Certification Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, *check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:*

[ ] Continuation [ ] Divisional [ ] Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____ / _____

Prior application information: *Examiner* _____ *Group / Art Unit:* _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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Name	08933 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE				
Address					
City		*State*		*Zip Code*	
Country		*Telephone*		*Fax*	

Name (Print/Type)	Joseph A. Powers	*Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)*	47,006
Signature	Joseph A. Powers	*Date*	10/31/00

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ($) 2,388.00

Complete if Known	
Application Number	Not Known
Filing Date	October 31, 2000
First Named Inventor	Aman Safaei et al.
Examiner Name	Not Known
Group Art Unit	Not Known
Attorney Docket No.	W1200-00034

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number: 04-1679

Deposit Account Name: Duane, Morris & Heckscher

[X] Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

[ ] Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

2. [X] **Payment Enclosed:**

[X] Check [ ] Credit card [ ] Money Order [ ] Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	710	201	355	Utility filing fee	710
106	320	206	160	Design filing fee	
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee	
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) ($) 710

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

			Extra Claims		Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	91	-20** =	71	X	18	= 1,278
Independent Claims	8	- 3** =	5	X	80	= 400
Multiple Dependent						=

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209	40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) ($) 1,618

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for *ex parte* reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for reply within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	710	246	355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) ($)

SUBMITTED BY				Complete (if applicable)	
Name (Print/Type)	Joseph A. Powers	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	47,006	Telephone	(215) 979-1842
Signature	Joseph A. Powers			Date	10/31/00

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INTERACTIVE INTERNET WAGERING SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to wagering systems, and more particularly to a wagering system utilizing the Internet.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Wagering systems, such as systems for wagering on horse races, have been developed which allow a user of an off-track user terminal to place a wager on a racing event without having to travel to a track or park. Examples of such systems are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,830,068 and 6,004,211 to Brenner et al.

Brenner et al. describes a wagering system where video signals and data related to horse races are transmitted to a user terminal designed to receive the video signals and data and display the racing data for viewing by a user. The racing data and video signals are transmitted through a television system and are received by a user terminal that includes a television receiver. The user terminal then displays the racing data and video signals on a television monitor connected to the user terminal. Wagers may also be placed using the user terminal.

Wagering systems such as Brenner et al. suffer from several limitations. First, the user terminal must be designed to receive a television transmission and process the received racing data. The user terminal, then, is limited to functioning in conjunction with mass television transmission systems such as cable, broadcast or satellite systems. The practicality, growth potential, accessibility, and flexibility of such system is, therefore, severely limited by the terminal's dependence on a participating transmission system and the transmission system's transmission method (e.g., satellite, cable, or broadcast). The geographic availability of a system is also bounded by the coverage area and customer base of an individual television system participating in the transmission of racing data. A user terminal cannot access racing data if it is outside of the coverage area of one of these

television systems or if it is moved within the coverage area of a system utilizing a transmission method for which it was not designed.

Telephone wagering systems also exist in some states, such as Connecticut. A wagerer obtains wagering data, such as the races scheduled at U.S. tracks and entries in each race, typically from a paper program. The wagerer then uses a hard copy table, such as a table printed on a card, to identify the proper telephone wagering code, e.g., an interactive voice response code, that may be used to place a wager from a telephone, typically a touch tone telephone.

These telephone wagering systems require the user to generate his or her own codes from complex tables of potential tracks, races, wagers, and wager amounts. Also, different systems use different codes. Further, the user must cost his or her own wagers by hand in order to know the exact amount of his or her wagers, no small task with complex wagers such as boxes, keys, and partial wins.

Further, wagering laws are currently adapting to accommodate wagering over networks such as the Internet. Therefore, there remains a need for a more flexible wagering system which does not require an interested wagerer to use a dedicated wagering terminal and which permits the user to place a wager from almost anywhere in the world. There also remains a need for a more comprehensive and customizable way to provide a user with wagering data and provide a user with an opportunity to place a wager based upon the received wagering data. Still further, there remains a need to simplify the generation of wagering codes for telephone wagering systems, as well as automate the costing of the wagers represented by these codes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a method and system for providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network. Race entry data are transmitted through a computer network to a user terminal. The race entry data are displayed to the user by the user terminal, and the race entry data include a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of

scheduled races at each of the tracks, and a listing of original entries in each of the races. Race program data are also transmitted through the computer network to the user terminal and are displayed to the user by the user terminal. The race program data include a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of currently scheduled races at each of the tracks, and a listing of current entries in each of the races. Live odds for races included within the race program data which are open for wagering and for which live odds are available are also transmitted to the user terminal through the computer network. The live odds are updated through the computer network at predetermined time intervals and are displayed to the user by the user terminal.

The present invention also includes a method and system for wagering on a contest. A listing of at least one contest which has not been completed is transmitted through a computer network to a user terminal, wherein the listing is displayed to a user by the user terminal. The user is prompted with the user terminal to select a contest from the listing. The user is also prompted to select a wager on a contest selected by the user. A code representing a selected wager is generated and displayed to the user by the user terminal. The code representing the wager is then received by a telephone wagering system.

The present invention allows a user to access wagering data related to races and other contest from anywhere in the world where Internet access is available. Also, the wagering data can be quickly and dynamically updated for a user. Further the wagering data may be presented to the user in an efficient fashion allowing for easy identification, retrieval, and customization of the presentation of the wagering data. This data may then be used by a wagerer in making wagering decisions, and wagers may then be placed using the system of the present invention without the need to develop complex codes by hand or cost complex wagers by hand.

The above and other features of the present invention will be better understood from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention that is provided in connection with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is block diagram of an exemplary combined Internet and telephone wagering system according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary initial contest selection process;

Figure 3 is a block diagram illustrating options presented to a user accessing an exemplary horse racing contest page according to the present invention;

Figure 4 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary news module according to the present invention;

Figure 5 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary products module according to the present invention;

Figure 5A is an illustration of an exemplary product board according to the present invention;

Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary track board module according to the present invention;

Figure 7 is an illustration of an exemplary track board according to the present invention;

Figures 8A-8D illustrate exemplary displays of entry data, program data, odds data and results data according to the present invention;

Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary race board module according to the present invention;

Figures 9A-9E illustrate exemplary displays from a race board according to the present invention;

Figure 10 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary search board module according to the present invention;

Figures 10A-10C illustrate exemplary displays from a search board according to the present invention;

Figure 11 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary code module according to the present invention;

Figure 11A-11D illustrate exemplary displays from an Interactive Voice Response code board according to the present invention;

Figure 12 is a block diagram illustrating options presented by an exemplary contest module according to the present invention;

Figure 12A and 12B illustrate exemplary displays from a contest board according to the present invention; and

Figure 13 is a functional block diagram of an exemplary video module according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of an exemplary combined Internet and telephone wagering system 10. User terminals, such as computers 12, are connected to a computer network, such as Internet 14. Computers 12 may connect to Internet 14 through a telephone line and local Internet service provider, through a dedicated line, as is common in many businesses, a local area network, broadband connection, or the like. Computer 12 can also connect to the Internet using wireless technology, such as hand held units connecting to the Internet via the wireless access protocol (WAP). A computer 12 generally accesses a web server 16 using the domain name of the web server 16 and Internet browser software, such as NETSCAPE or Microsoft's INTERNET EXPLORER. The user terminal may also be a pager which can communicate through the Internet using the Internet Protocol, a Kiosk with Internet access, a connected electronic planner (e.g., a PALM device manufactured by Palm, Inc.) or other device capable of interactive Internet communication, such as an electronic personal planner, or combination thereof.

The details of the services provided by the web server 16 of the present invention are described below, but other elements of exemplary system 10 are first described. The web server 16 is preferably connected to external data sources 18. External data sources 18 provide wagering related data to web server 16 for processing or transmitting through Internet 14 to a computer 12. A data server 20 may also be connected to web server 16

and external data sources 18. Data server 20 serves as additional storage for data received from external data sources or other wagering-related data. When required, web server 16 can access data server 20 to retrieve this information, and external data sources 18 can download data directly to data server 20.

An external data source may be any source of wagering related data, such as a source of news articles, a totalizator, a source of live odds, a handicapping source, a tips selection source, statistical data source, a weather source, an injury report source, etc. The external data source may be connected to the web server 16 or data server 20 by a dedicated line or the external data source may be hand entry of data or download from a floppy diskette, CD-ROM, or other data storage device.

Web sever 16 may also be connected to a telephone wagering system 22. The telephone wagering system 22 may include an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, which translates analog tones transmitted from touch tone telephones into usable information. IVR systems are known and widely used in automated telephone systems. The telephone wagering system 22 is also connected to telephones 24 through a telephone network 26. Alternatively, telephone communications can be transmitted over Internet 14 using voice over IP protocol, avoiding the need potentially to make any long distance telephone calls.

The system 10, as is described below, may be used to provide detailed wagering information for contests to users, as well as allow a user of a user terminal 12 to place wagers on a selected contest. The system, although described in conjunction with horse racing contests below, may be implemented to provide the above-mentioned and below-described features for any contest on which a user may place a wager, such as a dog race, a harness race, an automobile race, bicycle race, a basketball game, a football game, a soccer game, a hockey game, a baseball game, a golf tournament, a tennis match, a jaialai contest, and the like.

An Internet based system, such as wagering system 10, is global by nature in that an application service, although physically hosted in a single location, is accessible to

users throughout the world. A user terminal, such as computer 12, need not be specifically programmed to provide any wagering services. Rather, the computer need only be capable of accessing the Internet. A web server 16 preferably accommodates this global platform in the manner illustrated in the block diagram of Figure 2. Additionally technology now exists which can conform such systems, if necessary, to local or regional laws by limiting the geographic regions from which such systems can legally accept wagers.

Figure 2 is a flow chart of steps which are preferably performed when a user accesses web server 16. Assuming the web server 16 provides wagering services for contests which may be played throughout the world, the user is prompted to choose a country (or region) at step 32. Once the user has chosen a country, e.g., the United States (or North America), the user is prompted to choose a contest at step 34. For example, the user may be interested in wagering services relating to horse racing, as compared to basketball. Being that the system is global in nature, the user may also be prompted to select a time zone in which he or she is located at step 36. Any time sensitive information provided by the system, e.g., tip off time of a basketball game, is then expressed in the time zone selected by the user. The user may also select at step 38 a preferred language for information to be presented to the user, and any subsequent display is presented to the user in this selected language using known conversion techniques, such as real time translations utilizing translation tables for terms displayed on a web page. Once a user selects a contest, the user is presented at step 40 with the home contest page for the selected contest in the selected country. For example, the user may select between a homepage for horse racing and professional football in the United States.

A user can select from different options presented to the user generally by "clicking" on "buttons" or entering information into "windows" displayed to the user. Any phrase, icon, or the like which is "clickable" may be considered a prompt to the user to make a selection. Providing the user with two "clickable" alternatives is essentially the

equivalent of directly prompting the user with a textual prompt to make a selection, .e.g, "Please select A or B." The selection of the user is then transmitted through the Internet by the user terminal to the web server. The generation of these interactive web pages and their design are well known to those in the art of web page design, such as those familiar with programming in the XML, HTML, and JAVA languages.

The options presented by an exemplary contest page for a horse racing service are illustrated in Figure 3. The user may access a news module 100, a track board module 200, a race board module 300, a search board module 400, an interactive voice response (IVR) code module 500, a products module 600, a virtual bet module 700, a promotional contest module 800, or a video module 900. The details of each of these modules are described hereafter.

The modules are preferably programmed to present user pages or screens which may be manipulated like a "windows" type environment. In so doing, users can easily select options simply by pointing and "clicking" using a device such as a mouse. Users can easily enter data or register a request for data, which is then transmitted to the web server 16 for processing. Also, interactive functionality, such as organizing received data, can be accomplished locally at the user terminal if code applets are transmitted along with a particular "page." The applets are special purpose programs which accompany a page and are run locally at the user terminal, thereby allowing for interactive applications without requiring further transmissions from and to the web server.

Before describing the modules in detail below, some racing terminology used herein is described:

Class: Races are listed by class. Some race classes include "allowance," "claiming," "consolation," "derby," "derby trial," "futurity consolation," "futurity trial," "futurity," "handicap," "maiden claiming," "maiden," "maiden special weight," "optional claiming," "starter handicap," "starter allowance," "stake," "starter," and "trial."

Sub-Class: Races may also be listed by sub-class. The sub-classes typically

further classify race classes, such as "claiming," "allowance," or "stake" races. An example would be a "grade" sub-class of a "stake" class race.

Race Age: Races are often limited to horses of particular ages, such as two and three year old's; two year old's and older; three and four year old's; three, four and five year old's; three, four, five and six year old's; three year old's and older; four and five year old's; four, five and six year old's and older; four, five, six, and seven year old's; four year old's and older; five and six year old's; five, six, and seven year old's; five, six, seven and eight year old's; five, six, seven, eight, and nine year old's; five year old's and older; six and seven year old's; six, seven and eight year old's; six, seven, eight and nine year old's; six year old's and older; seven and eight year old's; seven, eight and nine year old's; seven year old's and older; eight year old's and older; and nine year old's and older. Each of these age groups are usually represented with a recognizable age code.

Breed Type: Races are sometimes limited by "breed type" of the horse entry. Some breed types include "Arabian," "Quarter Horse," "Thoroughbred," and "Paint and Appaloosa."

Race Sex: Races may also include a "race sex" restriction if not "open" to all sexes of horse. Some horse sex restrictions include" "colts and geldings," "fillies and mares," "colts," "colts and fillies," "fillies and geldings," "fillies," "geldings," "horses only," or "mares only."

Simulcast status: A Race listed for a park may have a simulcast status because the race is being taken as a simulcast from another racing venue.

A block diagram of an exemplary news module 100 is illustrated in Figure 4. A user is preferably presented with three options at steps 102: view the latest racing news, view older racing news or view archived racing news. If the latest news option is selected by a user at step 104, a list of recent racing news articles is transmitted to the user terminal and displayed to the user at step 120. These articles may, for example, be articles published within the last twenty-four hours or the fifteen most recent articles. The articles provide the latest news on what is happening in the Thoroughbred, Harness,

Greyhound, or Steeplechase racing. If the user selects an article, such as by "clicking" on the title of the article at step 122, the text of the article is transmitted to the user from the web server 16 and displayed to the user at step 124. The web server 16 may retrieve the article from the data server 20. Alternatively, the current articles can be locally stored by the web server 16 as they are received from an external data source 18, such as Thoroughbred Times, of Lexington, Kentucky.

The user may also select an older news articles option at step 104. This option provides the user at steps 114 to 118 access to articles from, for example, the last few weeks in the manner described above for the latest news articles. This option allows the user to view what was previously posted as "latest news." As the latest news articles are updated, the latest news articles move to the older news option, and the older news articles move to the archived news option, described below.

The news module 100 also preferably allows the user to search for archived news articles when the user selects that search option at step 104. These articles are preferably stored in data server 20 and are accessible to web server 16. The news module 100 preferably allows the user to search for news articles using boolean search techniques at step 106, e.g., "Secretariat AND Kentucky" or "Secretariat OR Triple Crown". When a search is completed, the web server 16 transmits search results, such as a list of titles of articles that satisfy the search request (if any), to the user terminal for display to the user at step 108. The user may then retrieve a copy of an article by selecting an article, such as by "clicking" on the title of the article, at step 110. The selected article is then transmitted to the user terminal and displayed to the user at step 112.

Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating the options presented to a user by an exemplary track board module 200. A track board is preferably displayed to the user at step 202. The track board initially presented to the user preferably defaults to the data for the current date (i.e., today's date), but the user is presented the option at step 204 to select a track board for a date in which the user has interest.

Race program data for races are usually available approximately 24 hours in

advance of races. Race entry data for races are typically available 48 hours in advance of races. Race program data include data that would generally be available to a wagerer at a park or off-track facility in a race program. The program data generally include a list of current races that are scheduled to be run, a list of current runners (horses, dogs, etc.) or entries for each race and a scheduled jockey for each current entry. Race entry data include the horse and jockey entries for races at listed tracks as of 48 hours prior to race time, and may include morning line odds for the original entries (if applicable). These entries are subject to change as the time draws closer to the race date. For example, an owner may originally enter two horses in a single race with each horse ridden by the same jockey. It should be apparent that as the race time draws nearer, the owner must withdraw a horse or add a second jockey. This decision is typically made at least twenty-four hours (but sometimes less) prior to race day, at which time the race will be listed in a race program. Early horse and jockey entries for races are generally available forty-eight to seventy-two hours in advance of race time.

The race program data, race entry data, and early entry data may include much overlapping information besides the jockey, horse, and trainer for each entry in a race. For example, wagering data included in race, program and early entry data may include the post position of each horse, the combined weight of the jockey and saddle that the horse will have to carry, any additional equipment on the horse (e.g., blinkers), any medication being used by the horse (e.g., Lasix, Bute), the owner of each horse, the trainer of each horse, the opening or morning line odds for each entry, the class of race, the sex, age and breed restrictions of the race, the race distance, and the post time of the race, to name a few.

If a user selects a date at step 204 different from the default date, a track board for that date is transmitted to the user terminal and displayed to the user. Referring to Figure 7, an exemplary format for a track board is illustrated. A plurality of tracks 250 are listed. Abbreviations for the tracks that are standard codes used by the racing industry, full names, or another system, or combination of systems, may be used to list the tracks.

For example, "AP" is an abbreviation for Arlington Park and "BEL" is an abbreviation for Belmont Park. The track board also preferably lists the current weather conditions 252 if the present date is selected, or forecasted weather conditions if a future date is selected. The weather conditions for each track are preferably depicted in an easily recognizable graphical format. The weather conditions are preferably updated at predetermined times throughout the day, such as every hour. This is especially helpful when sudden weather changes occur during the course of the day that could affect the track's surface. The weather condition data can be received from an external data source 18 and forwarded to the web server 16 for display on the track board transmitted to user terminal 12. Additional weather data may be accessed by clicking on the graphical condition 252, such as temperature, humidity, dew point, wind conditions, barometric pressure, visibility, etc. . .

Alternatively, there may be a separate weather module where a weather board is presented to the user. The weather board may include a list of all of the tracks and weather conditions at each track. The weather board may be searchable and organizable, i.e., customizable or personalizable, such as by temperature, track, track location, current weather condition, forecasted weather condition, etc. . .

A list of races for each listed track and scheduled for the selected day is preferably displayed along with the track listing 250 and weather condition listing 252. For example, there are six races listed for Arlington Park for July 2. Note, the current date - 7/2 - for purposes of this example, is shown underlined in Figure 7. An individual race, and inherently a track, can be selected by a user at step 206 by "clicking" on a race number.

The track board preferably distinguishes the potential statuses of each race in some format to the user. By doing so, the user can quickly identify races having a status in which he or she has an interest. The status of a race may be as simple as whether the race has been run or has yet to be run, or more distinguishing. For example, assume the user has chosen at step 204 the date of July 2 and assume July 2 is the current date (i.e.,

today's date). This selection may be made on the track board of Figure 7 by selecting a date 256 corresponding to July 2. Races "1," "2," and "3" at Arlington Park (AP) may be highlighted in a color such as green to illustrate that they have already been run and that results for the race are available. If the user were to select any of these races, i.e., clicking on a race number, the results of the race are transmitted to the user terminal and displayed at step 208. It follows that all races for a track board from July 1 ("7/1") would be highlighted in green because each race was completed the previous day.

Race "4" at Arlington Park (AP) may be highlighted in yellow to illustrate its status that it has not been run, is open for wagering, and live, updated odds are available for the race. If the user selects this race, the available program data and live odds are preferably displayed to the user at step 212. The time to post for each race having this status may also be displayed on the track board to alert the user to the urgency of viewing the program data for the race. Alternatively, race "4" may be highlighted in a color such as gray to illustrate that it has not been run, but wagering has closed on the race, i.e., the race is about to begin or is in progress or awaiting final results. If the user selects this race at step 210, the program data may again be displayed to the user along with a notice that the race is closed for wagering and the closing odds for the race, if available.

Races "5" and "6" at Arlington Park (AP) may be highlighted in another color, such as red, to illustrate that program data are available for the race, wagering on the race has opened, but live odds are not yet available for the race. If the user were to select this race, the program data and morning line odds may be displayed to the user for the race at Step 214.

If the user were to select July 3 ("7/3"/ tomorrow's date) on the track board screen, all of the races would be highlighted in yet another color, such as purple, to indicate that program data are available for the race, but the races are not yet open for wagering. The program data, notice of wagering status, and any available morning line odds are displayed to the user at step 216 if the user selects one of these races.

If the user were to select July 4 ("7/4"/ two days from the present date), all of the

races may be highlighted in another color such as blue to indicate that only race entry data are available and wagering has not yet opened. If the user selects one of these races, the race entry data are displayed to the user along with the morning line odds for the race at step 218. Still further, a July 5 option may be presented to the user and all races may be highlighted in another color, such as orange, to indicate that only early entry data are available for the race. If the user selects one of the listed races, the early entries for the race are displayed to the user at step 220.

A table indicating the significance of each color is preferably presented along with the track board in order to indicate the status identified by each color to the user. It should also be understood that the colors described above in no way limit the invention, but are selected for illustrative purposes only. Further, the statuses of the races need not be distinguished from each other by color, but rather may be distinguished by other means, such as numeric indicators, key words, abbreviations or other distinguishing characteristic.

Additional colors may also be used to identify the statuses of races relative to post time. For example, a color may be used to signify that a race post time is less than thirty minutes away.

The display of the track board of Figure 7 is preferably dynamically updated from the web server at predetermined intervals. For example, weather conditions 252 may be updated and the colors of the races may change. The highlight of race "4", for example, preferably changes from yellow to gray when the race's status changes from "open to wagering" to "closed to wagering."

Once a user selects a race at step 206, wagering data (in this example, data relating to horse race wagering) is displayed to the user. As discussed above, the wagering data may include the status of the selected race (e.g., results available, race closed for wagering, etc. . .), the results of the race, program data for the race, race entry data, or early entry data. Also, as mentioned, the results data, race entry data, race program data, and early entry data are not limited to just data identifying the status of a

race and entries at each race at each track, but also may include other information about the races which are of general interest to racing enthusiasts and typically included in race programs at tracks. Racing data displayed to the user may include other data relating to the contest and include morning line odds, program numbers, program page numbers, owner names, post times, race class, purse value, distance, age restrictions for entries, sex restrictions for entries, weight carried by the horse, post positions for each horse, claim minimum for the race (the amount the horse entered may be claimed for), equipment restrictions, medication information, breed type, or surface of the track, to name a few. Despite the status of a race selected by the user, each display for a selected race preferably includes the track, date, race number, post time, class code, purse, distance, age and sex.

It should be understood that real time odds when available can be included in the program data display. This feature provides a tremendous advantage over conventional paper programs. The dynamic nature of the presentation of each race's status also provides an added benefit to the present invention over conventional paper programs.

Other possible racing data may include the "Silk" of the jockey entry. Particularly in Europe, a jockey's jersey or "Silk" represents his employer's or horse owner's identity. This information may also be listed along with the jockey, such as in a descriptive textual format or graphical presentation.

Figure 8A illustrates an exemplary display for a selected race that has already been run. The display conveys the results 260 of the first race at Delaware Park, i.e., "Realhandsome" placed first, "Petes Seven Eleven" placed second, and "Minie Minie Coyote" placed third. The win, place and show payout results and other payouts for more complex wagers, such as exacta, trifecta, or pick three, to name a few, are also preferably displayed. This information may be obtained by the web server 16 from an external data source 18, such as a totalizator. All payouts are preferably based on a $2 wager (or a $1 wager if the individual track accepts $1 wagers), but the payouts may be calculated for another wager if the user so chooses. Additionally, teletimer data - the time in which

each horse finished the race - could be displayed.

Figure 8A also illustrates that other pertinent racing data for the selected race may be displayed to the user, such as the program number of each entry, the post time of the race, the class of the race, the purse for the race, the distance of the race, and any age or sex restrictions for the race.

Figure 8B illustrates racing data for a race that is included in the program data and is open for wagering, but for which live odds are not available. The current entries 262 for the race are listed along with the morning line odds 264 for each entry. The program number 266 for each entry is also listed. As can be seen in Figure 8D, no program number is shown for the first race at Arlington park on July 4 because program data are not available for races that far in advance. Figure 8B and 8D further illustrate that the post position (PP) of each entry, weight (Wt), claim amount ($ Claim) for the race, equipment (Equip), and medication (Med) may also be listed. A table of abbreviations preferably is displayed along with each display screen to explain any abbreviations used in the screen. For example, the table for Figure 8B may show that "L=Lasix," and the table for Figure 8C may show that "B=Blinkers" for equipment.

Figure 8C illustrates racing data for a race which is open for wagering and for which live odds are available. The time until post 268 is listed and is preferably updated at periodic intervals, such as every five minutes. Live odds 270 are shown to a user and are again updated at predetermined intervals, such as every minute. These live odds may be forwarded to the web server by a totalizator and then periodically transmitted to the user terminal for display in the board shown in Figure 8C. The win pool and percentage, the place pool and percentage, and the show pool and percentage are also preferably displayed at windows 272 and are periodically updated. The totalizator is preferably connected to the web server 16 or database server 20 by a serial data link that feeds live odds to the server continuously. The display of these live odds to the user, however, is preferably periodic in nature to permit the user sufficient time to analyze the odds.

A track board allows a user to quickly and easily identify races from a track which

the user has an interest. The user can easily identify the status of a race, particularly if the user is looking for a race which is open to wagering. Further, all of the result, program, and race entry data are available to the user in one location. By viewing a single screen, a user is efficiently provided with at least four dimensions of race information for the United States, North America, or other selected region - a list of each track, the scheduled races at each track, the date each race is scheduled, and the status of each race.

Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating the options presented to a user by an exemplary race board module 300 according to the present invention. The race board lists races available for several days with many sortable categories according to the preferences of the user. A race board is first presented to the user at step 302. The user may be prompted at step 304 to select a date, whereby races scheduled for that selected date are presented to the user at step 306. A default race board, such as the race board for the current date, may be transmitted to the user terminal and presented to the user at step 302, or the user may first select a desired date at step 304.

Many races are run in a given country every day. For example, approximately one thousand races are run each day in the United States (approximately 10 races per day at each of approximately 100 race tracks) between thoroughbred, harness, and dog racing. A race board according to the present invention preferably lists all of these races for a user, preferably not at the same time though. The races may be presented in groups of twenty, for example, with the user selecting from fifty possible display groups. Alternatively, a race board page may be presented to a user in which a user may continuously scroll through to a selected race.

The list of races are preferably displayed to the user in a default organization at step 306, such as by alphabetic order of the race tracks, e.g., all the races from tracks beginning with the letter "A" are first displayed, then all of the races from tracks beginning with the letter "B" are displayed, etc. . . At this point, the user is preferably presented the option at step 308 of either organizing the displayed races in a desired organization or searching the displayed races for races having predefined race

characteristics, as is discussed below. If the user initially chooses to organize or customize the races at step 308, the race list is organized according to the user's selected parameters at step 310 and is displayed in the chosen organization at step 312. The user may then be permitted to search the organized list at step 314, whereby the search results are displayed to the user at step 316 in the preselected organization. These search results are also preferably reorganizable into a new customized organization desired by the user.

Similarly, if the user initially decides to search the full list of the races at step 308 from the selected date, the list is searched for races having the selected characteristics at step 318 and the search results including a list of races from the original race list having the selected race characteristics are displayed to the user (if any such races exist) at step 320. The user may then preferably be allowed to organize the search results into a desired organization at step 322, whereby the organized search results are displayed to the user in a selected organized fashion at step 324. The user may also choose to refine his or her selected search characteristics or execute a new search of the original race list with new search parameters.

A race board is very helpful for wagerers who look to wager on races having certain characteristics or for persons who otherwise wish to identify those races having predetermined characteristics. A trainer, for example, may have an interest in identifying claiming races for female entries These races are not otherwise easily identifiable from the thousands of scheduled races for which information is available.

Figure 9A is an example of an exemplary race board page presented to a user. The user can select a race board for a desired date 330. Each horizontal line indicates a race at a track. For example, the first line 332 indicates a race at track "AP" (Arlington Park) which is a claim (CLM) class race with a purse of $25,000. The race is the fourth race at Arlington Park on July 3 and each horse is a thoroughbred (TB). The post time is 13:23 Eastern time, the surface is dirt (D), and the race distance is six furlongs (F). The status of the race is indicated by the letter "O." The letter "O" can indicate, for example, that the race is open for wagering and program data and live odds are available. It should

be apparent that this example now assumes the current date is July 3, being that live odds are available. The status can alternatively or additionally be indicated by a color as described above with the track board module 200.

The race listing of the race board may be organized simply by "clicking" on, for example, "POST." If "POST" is selected, the listed races are organized by post times, e.g., from earliest to latest post time. Selecting "POST" a second time reverses the order of listing, e.g., from latest to earliest post time. Further, the race listing may be organized by allowing the user to remove columns in which the user has no interest, such as removing the "CLASS" column. Similarly, the user may be permitted to replace a column or add a column displaying a race characteristic which the user does have interest, such as a column indicating number of runners for each race. A check list may be provided along with a displayed board that allows the user to check and un-check those race characteristics the user wishes to have displayed on the board. The option is preferably provided for all board displays. This feature provides for very flexible customization or personalization of wagering data according to an individual's preferences and needs.

The organization feature, even without first searching the race list, may be very helpful to a user. A user may, for example, wish to see the range of purse values for all of the races for the selected date. Indeed, some wagerers prefer to bet only high or low purse races.

The race board shown in Figure 9A lists only a portion of all of the available races in order to facilitate a comfortable display of the races to the user. The user can select from the non-displayed groups of races by choosing from the remaining groups 334 listed as "1" through "29" and "Next." As mentioned above, the race board page may be designed as a continuously scrollable page, thereby removing the need for groups 334.

Referring to Figures 9B through 9E, possible search options of race characteristics are shown. Pull down window 336 allows the user to select a race board that displays a race list from all available tracks or races within a particular class (e.g., CLM (claiming),

CON (conditional), etc...). Pull down window 338 prompts the user to select a race characteristic for which to search the list of races, such as by track, race age limitations, distance of a race, surface of a race, the number of runners in a race, the breed limitations of a race, the horse sex limitation of a race, the name of a race, or whether the race's status is simulcast, to name a few.

After the user has selected a race characteristic, the user may select a preferred search method. Pull down menu window 340 presents the user with possible options. The "Begins With" option allows the user to search, for example, for "Race Names" that "Begin With" the letter "A". The letter "A" is then typed or otherwise entered into open window 342. The user may also use this option to search for the first digit in a number. The "Contains" option allows the user to, for example, search for a "Race Name" that "Contains" the word "Derby" or a number that contains a selected digit or digits. The "Greater Than," "Less Than," and "Equal" options permit the user to search for races having, for example, Purses greater than "10,000" or races that are longer than one mile or "1M." These options may also be used to search through lists alphabetically, e.g., all race names starting with letters from "k" to the end of the alphabet. The user can also opt to view listed post times as adjusted by a selected time zone 346. When the user has made his or her selection, the selected search can be executed by using the "SUBMIT" button 344.

Figure 10 is a block diagram illustrating the options presented to a user by an exemplary search board module 400. When a user selects the search board module option, a search board is transmitted to the user terminal and displayed to the user at step 1002. The search board prompts the user to select a search, and the user enters his or her selected search parameters at step 1004. The user can then search for specific entries in races, i.e. . ., for specific horses, jockeys, or trainers, or combination thereof (a particular horse ridden by a particular jockey, etc. . .).

An exemplary search board is illustrated in Figures 10A, 10B and 10C. Windows 1020a allow the user to select a horse, jockey or trainer parameter. A window 1020b then

allows the user to select a connector parameter for the parameter entered in window 1020a and a parameter entered in open window 1020c. For example, the user could choose to search a "horse" in window 1020a that "contains" from window 1020b the word "lady" entered in window 1020c.

The search board preferably allows the user to search for entries (horse, jockey or trainer) in combinations. For example, the user can search for an entry in a race including a horse containing the word lady "and/or" (selection window 1020d) ridden by a "jockey" with a name that "begins with" the letter "X." The search board may also prompt the user to select a third entry parameter, such as a horse satisfying a selected parameter ridden by a jockey satisfying a selected parameter and trained by a trainer satisfying a selected parameter. Additionally, a fourth variable could be used, such as "owner."

Once the user has entered his or her selected search parameter at step 1004, the parameters are transmitted to the web server. A database server 20 then searches stored racing data for entries that satisfy the requested search. The racing data may include early entries in races, race entries, or program entries. The racing data may also include past races, i.e., entries for which results are available.

Once the search is complete, the search results are transmitted to the user terminal and are displayed to the user. The results preferably identify the race(s) in which the selected horse, jockey, trainer, or combination thereof can be found as entries.

Even if a search was conducted only for, for example, horses names containing the word "lady," the horses that satisfy this search all have jockeys and all have trainers. Therefore, each horse's jockey and trainer is also preferably listed along with the horse name. The user at step 1008 can select a particular horse, jockey or trainer (e.g., by "clicking" on the name of the entry) and statistical data for the selection is transmitted to the user terminal for display to the user. For example, the jockey's career record and career winnings may be displayed at step 1010 to the user. A picture, video, or audio of the selected horse, jockey or trainer may also be transmitted to the user terminal and displayed to the user with the user terminal.

Other statistical data may include year-to-date data for a horse, such as the number of starts for the horse, the number of wins, the number of seconds, the number of thirds, earnings, horse breed, color, and morning workout information. Horses generally do workouts in the morning. Clockers clock the workouts and report the time, e.g., the time it took a horse to run a lap around a track. Horses generally run races every seven to ten days. Therefore, workout information may be very valuable to an interested user when, for example, the horse has not run in forty days or the horse is recovering from an injury. Similar annual data can be provided for the jockey and trainer. To this end, the system is also preferably fully integrated in that any time a horse, jockey, or trainer name is listed, regardless of the module, this information may be accessed by simply "clicking" on the name.

Along with the horse, jockey and trainer identification, each search result may be listed along with other information, such as a track, date, race, class, purse, distance, Silk, surface, and/or page number in a program, or combination thereof. Assume a search was conducted for a jockey named "John Smith." The search results may show that John Smith is the jockey in the fourth and sixth races at Belmont on July 10. These results are preferably organizable as described above with the race board, such as by clicking on "Purse" to organize the results by purse value.

If the user then selects at step 1014 the fourth race (e.g., by clicking on the "fourth race" display) racing data for that race are then displayed. If the race has already been run, a display such as shown in Figure 8A may be displayed. Similarly, if the sixth race has not been run, is open for wagering, and live odds are available, a display such as shown in Figure 8C may be transmitted to the user terminal and displayed.

The search module described above allows a user to quickly and efficiently identify entries of interest. A user may, for example, wish to know each race in which a known "hot" horse or jockey is participating.

Figure 11 is a block diagram of options presented to a user by an exemplary code module, and more specifically by an exemplary interactive voice response (IVR) code

module 500. A list of tracks and races at the tracks are displayed to the user at step 1102. The list preferably includes only races that are open for wagering. An example of an exemplary board listing these races is shown in Figure 11A. The list is similar to the track board of Figure 7, only the races are preferably only those races open for wagering. The board offers the user the option of selecting the wagering system in which the user has an interest through pull down window 1120. For example, a telephone wagering system 22 in Connecticut may use a different code system to represent wagers than a telephone wagering system 22 in Philadelphia.

The user selects a race at step 1104 from the board of Figure 11A, and a code board is displayed to the user at step 1106. An example of an exemplary code board is shown in Figure 11B. The board provides much of the same racing information described above as shown in, for example, Figure 8C. The code board displayed in Figure 11B illustrates that the third race at Arlington Park on Sunday, July 2 is open for wagering and that live odds are available.

The code board also prompts the user to select a wager. The board of Figure 11B illustrates in IVR code windows 1022 and 1036 that a wager has already been chosen. An IVR code is displayed in IVR code window 1022, and portion 1023 containing the code for the selected track (e.g., Pound 369 ("#369") represents Arlington Park). Portion 1024 is the portion of the code identifying the race number (pound 4 ("#4")), the wager amount (pound 2 ("#2")), and the wager type (pound 11 ("#11")). Portion 1026 of the code in window 1022 indicates the program numbers of the horses selected by the user at step 1108, i.e., horse program numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

The following is an example of the steps which may be executed to select a wager using the code board of Figure 11B. The user first selects the amount of her wager from pull down window 1030 (also shown in Figure 11C). Once the user selects the wager amount, the user can select her desired "bet type." The user selects a bet type from pull down window 1034. Potential wagers are shown in Figure 11D and may include win, place, show, win/place, win/place/show, exacta, exacta/box, quinella, quinella/box, daily

double, trifecta, trifecta/box, pick 3, pick 9, superfecta, superfecta box, double quinella, pick 6, or win/show, to name a few. Once the bet type is selected, the user selects the "Go" button, and the portions 1023, 1024 of the code are appropriately displayed in window 1022.

Figure 11B shows that the user has selected a quinella/box wager with the 1, 2, 3 and 4 horses (portion 1026 (#1*2*3*4) of the IVR code). The horses may be selected for the wager by pressing the appropriate program number buttons 1028. Window 1036 displays the cost of the user's selected wager. This feature is particularly helpful when a user has selected a complex wager such as a quinella/box wager. A 2$ quinella/box wager is actually 6 bets for $12 dollars because of all of the possible combinations. Essentially the user has placed wagers on horse combinations 1&2, 1&3, 1&4, 2&3, 2&4, and 3&4. As a further example, a trifecta box is a trifecta wager where all possible combinations using a given number of horses are bet upon. The total number of combinations can be calculated according to the formula x^3-3x^2+2x, where "x" equals the number of horses in the box. The sum of the formula is then multiplied by the amount wagered on each combination. This wager type is quite difficult, or at least time consuming, to cost by hand.

The "With" button 1038 allows the user to separate horses when the user is using more than one horse as a portion of a wager. For example, a user may want to bet an exacta with the #1 horse finishing first and either the #2, #3, or #4 horses finishing second. The user can first select the #1 horse and then select the "With" button, followed by selecting the #2, #3 and #4 horses. Additionally, a "ALL" button may be included which allows the user to combine all of the horses with a selected horse in a bet, e.g., an exacta bet with the #1 horse and each of #2-#12 horses.

The "more information" button 1040 allows the user to view odds data besides that displayed in Figure 11B. For example, selecting the "more information" button 1040 preferably displays the pool and percentage information shown in Figure 8C.

Once the user has selected her bet and the cost of the wager is displayed to the

user at step 1110 and the code is displayed to the user at step 1112, the user may then use the code to place the selected wager. If the code is an IVR code, the user may use a conventional touch tone telephone 24 at step 1116 to enter the IVR code, i.e., press "#369#4# 2#11#1*2*3*4" keys, and transmit the code as analog tones through telephone network 26 to a receiving telephone wagering system 22 or through Internet 14 using voice over IP protocol. The telephone wagering system 32 preferably includes an IVR receiver which translates the tones back into the code. The code is then compared against a look-up table to identify the wager which has been placed by the user. This is preferably automated and controlled by a programmable computer.

Alternatively, the user could transmit the code in a digital format through computer network 14 to web server 16. Web server 16 may forward the digital code 16 to the telephone wagering system 22, such as through a leased line, and the digital signal may be converted into an analog tone for recognition by the telephone wagering system 22. Further, the telephone wager system 22 may include software and hardware capable of recording the wager directly from the transmitted digital code.

Of course, the user preferably has an account with the telephone wagering system or otherwise pays for the wager. The account is preferably a single account which may be used for Internet, telephone, and in person wagering.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of options presented to a user by an exemplary product module 600. Figure 5A is an illustration of an exemplary product board displayed at step 602 when a user selects the "products" option from a main menu. As shown in Figure 5A, the user can select a date 620 for which products are available at step 604. A product board for the current date is preferably displayed by default, but product boards for other dates may be displayed by selecting the desired date.

The product board preferably displays a list of tracks 622 and the type of racing at the track (e.g., "TB" is thoroughbred racing). The product board also preferably displays the products that are available for each track for selection by a user at steps 606, 608, 610. Examples of products that are popular with horse wagerers are "Past Performance"

products, such as those offered by Bloodstock Research Information Services and Daily Racing Form Inc., "Handicapping" products, such as those offered by Autotote Corporation, Bloodstock Research Information Services, and Thoro-Graph, and "Tips/Selection" products, such as those offered by Bloodstock Research Information Services. These products are preferably all offered to the user at one convenient location (i.e., at one page) and from a plurality of different product vendors. The user can select a product or combination of products by simply "clicking" on the company name under the desired product type, and the user is then preferably prompted to select a payment type at step 612.

Payment may be made by, for example, credit card, from a wagering account, from a dedicated account for products, or from a promotional account where a user has earned or otherwise accumulated "points" which are redeemable for products. The product could, of course, also be free to subscribers. Once the user selects a payment method at step 612, a request for the selected products is transmitted from the user terminal at step 614. The request may be a request transmitted to web server 16. Web server 16 may retrieve the products from a data server 20 or forward the request to a vendor's computer system for retrieval of the product and forwarding to the user terminal 12. Alternatively, the selection of the product may be a link to a server maintained by, or for, a company whose product is selected. That company may then directly transmit the selected product through the Internet 14 to the user terminal 12 at step 616. The user may then display the product on a monitor connected to the user terminal, print the product, or otherwise display the product. The product, if not saved by the user, is preferably accessible to the user through the system at later times for no additional charge.

Figure 12 is a block diagram of the option presented to a user selecting an exemplary promotional contest module 800. A promotional contest board is displayed to the user at step 802 and as shown in Figure 12A. The user may be prompted to select from a list of a plurality of promotional contests or games at step 804 where the contests

are being run by, for example, a single hosting company on behalf of a plurality of different companies as shown in pull down window 820 of Figures 12A and 12B, or by a single hosting company under different contest names. Once a promotional contest is selected, a list of races included within the promotional contest is displayed at step 806, such as the three races shown in Figure 12A for the "Company A" contest. Alternatively, the wager amount for each potential wager (e.g., 2 bets) may be set by the contest rules. The user can select at step 808 one or more of the displayed races, and the user can then place a mock wager at step 810.

The mock wager may be placed with points representing mock or play money and accumulated by the user (as described above) or each contestant may be provided with a set number of points for participating in the promotional contest. Alternatively, the wager amount for each potential wager (e.g., 2$ bets) may be set by the contest rules. The user may acquire points based upon his or her wagering habits or by another business rule. The user may then use the points as money to wager on the selected race. The results of the race may then be compared with the user's wager at step 812, and the a payout of points to a user account may be made at step 814. The payout may also be in the form of promotional merchandise or the points may be redeemable for merchandise, cash, or other reward. The results of the contest comparison at step 812 are preferably displayed to the user, such as in a chart comparing the actual results of each race selected by the user for a mock wager and the user's mock wager selection.

Alternatively, the contest may not require a point system, and, as an example, users can compete against each other to see who can pick the most winners in one twenty-four hour period or for races selected for the contest with the winner being rewarded with a prize. Further, the promotional contest rules may dictate, for example, that anyone who selects the correct finishing order of the entries in a selected race or races wins a prize, such as a trip or a car.

The instructions for the selected promotional contest are preferably displayed to the user either upon request by "clicking" on a rules button or automatically. In one

exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the rules are displayed to the user as scrolling text along with the promotional contest board for the selected promotional contest.

The user may also be permitted to place mock wagers on any available race by selecting the virtual bet module 700. For example, a user who is a new member may be provided one hundred free points, representing one hundred pretend dollars, and the user can use the points to place mock wagers on races, payoffs for which are credited to the user's virtual account. A virtual totalizator may be programmed, i.e., a totalizator simulator, to pay the user the correct amount based on the final odds for the race and the suer's wager type (e.g., win, exacta, etc. . .). These odds may be used from the totalizator running the particular race (even though the virtual bet does not affect these odds) or a virtual totalizator may be programmed to calculate its own live, changing odds based on just the virtual bets it receives. The points paid by the virtual totalizator to the user's virtual account may then be redeemable or be used solely for educational purposes, i.e., to permit the user to hone or test his or her wagering skills.

An exemplary video module 900 allows a user to request video of a contest, such as a horse race. The user is preferably prompted at step 902 to view either archived or live videos. The user may, for example, be prompted to view a stored race video clip of a race when the user accesses the results of a race. Alternatively, the user may request a race video clip from an archival list of race videos, such as for research purposes. Similarly, the user may be prompted to view live video of a race after the user places a wager on a race or after the user accesses program data for the race.

The user selects one of the options presented to the user at step 902 and a particular race video at step 904, and the selected video is transmitted to the user terminal of the user at step 906 and displayed to the user by the user terminal at step 908. If the user selects an archival video, a race video clip that is stored, for example, at the data server 20 or stand alone video server 21, is transmitted to the user terminal through computer network 13 as a complete file for local storage and viewing by the user using

appropriate software at a later time, or the video may be streamed to the user terminal through the computer network 14 for display to the user using software applications, such as Microsoft's WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER or Real Network's REALPLAYER. Audio may also be included.

If the live video option is selected by the user, the video may be received by video server 21 or data server 20 from a video source such as a simulcast feed, encoded at appropriate transmission rates, and streamed to the user terminal. The video may then be viewed by the user substantially as it is received, although allowing for appropriate buffering to provide quality video display and audio.

Much of the wagering data presented to the user by the modules of the present invention described above overlaps, at least in part, from module to module. As an example, program data may be accessed from the track board module 200, the race board module 300, and the search board module 400. Each module, however, presents the user with an efficient and unique method for accessing this information, depending in part upon the user's individual needs, preferences, and selection criteria. Also, each module may cross-link to other modules. For example, a link to the IVR code module may be provided each time program data for a race which is open for wagering are accessed by a user.

As mentioned, the present invention is not limited to horse racing, or even racing contest services. Rather, the present invention relates to other contests, as described above, such as United Stated profession football (e.g., the National Football League (NFL)). The modules described above may provide similar options to a user as the above described embodiment of the present invention. A news module may present a user with the latest, older and archived news articles relating to the NFL. A NFL football board may list all of the football games for a given week along with opening odds, live odds, weather conditions, spreads, injuries, lineups, records, team and individual statistics, and the like. All of this data may be searchable and organizable according to a user's preferences. The user, for example, may be interested in identifying all games with

double digit spreads. The user may select a wager and the code for the wager may be generated and displayed to the user. The wager may be costed for the user once selected in a number of ways, such as displaying a notice like "the Philadelphia Eagles must beet the Dallas Cowboys by 5.5 points for you to win your wager" or "the Philadelphia Eagles must beet the Dallas Cowboys for you to win $92 on your $100 wager." This feature may be particularly beneficial to show a beneficial to show a user potential outcomes for complex bets, such as reverses. Likewise, football related products, e.g., scouting reports or past performance reports disclosing trends such as a team's record in home games after a Monday night game, may be offered to the user, and promotional contest and virtual bets, such as football pools, may be provided.

It should also be understood that the displays of various boards generated by the modules of the present invention are only examples of possible display formats. Other displays may be presented to the user while still providing the user wagering data in an exemplary fashion according to the present invention.

The present invention can be embodied in the form of methods and apparatus for practicing those methods. The present invention can also be embodied in the form of program code embodied in tangible media, such as floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, hard drives, or any other machine-readable storage medium, wherein, when the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an apparatus for practicing the invention. The present invention can also be embodied in the form of program code, for example, whether stored in a storage medium, loaded into and/or executed by a machine, or transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via electromagnetic radiation, wherein, when the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an apparatus for practicing the invention. When implemented on a general-purpose processor, the program code segments combine with the processor to provide a unique device that operates analogously to specific logic circuits.

Although the invention has been described in terms of exemplary embodiments, it is not limited thereto. Rather, the appended claims should be construed broadly to include other variants and embodiments of the invention that may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and range of equivalents of the invention.

Attorney Docket No.: W1200-00034

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting race entry data through a computer network to a user terminal, wherein said race entry data are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race entry data including a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of scheduled races at each of said tracks, and a listing of original entries in each of said races;

transmitting race program data through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race program data are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race program data including a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of currently scheduled races at each of said tracks, and a listing of current entries in each of said races;

transmitting live odds through said computer network to said user terminal for races included within said race program data which are open for wagering and for which live odds are available, wherein said live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal; and

updating through said computer network said live odds transmitted to said user terminal at predetermined time intervals, wherein said updated live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said race program data further comprises a program number and post position for each current entry in each of said races.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said race entry data further comprises morning line odds for said original entries.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said race entry data further comprises an original jockey for each original entry and an original trainer for each original entry, and said race

program data further comprises a current jockey for each current entry and a current trainer for each current entry.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of transmitting a listing at of least one past performance product, at least one handicapping product, or at least one tip selection product, or a combination thereof, to said user terminal through said computer network, wherein said listing is displayed to said user, and prompting said user to select at least one product from said listing, wherein a request for a selected product is transmitted by said user terminal through said computer network.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of charging a credit card of said user, a wagering account of said user, or a promotional account of said user if said user requests any of said products.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of transmitting a list of races that have not yet been run through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said list of races is displayed to said user by said user terminal, prompting said user to place a mock wager on at least on of said listed races, comparing a selected mock wager with results of said races, and awarding a prize to said user based on said comparison.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of transmitting results data through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said results data include a listing of a plurality of race tracks, a listing of completed races at said tracks, and the finish order for entries in said races and payoffs for said entries.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting results data said currently scheduled races to said user terminal through said computer network after said currently scheduled races have been made official, said results data including the

finish order of entries from said races and payoffs for said entries, wherein said racing data are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a listing of a plurality of tracks and weather conditions for said tracks to said user terminal through said computer network, wherein said listing and weather conditions are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of causing updated weather conditions for said parks to be displayed by said user terminal at predetermined time intervals.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of transmitting forecasted weather conditions for said tracks to said user terminal, wherein said forecasted weather conditions are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting race contest news articles to said user terminal through said computer network, wherein said race contest news articles are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of prompting said user to search archived race contest news articles, wherein search results for a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal, prompting said user to select an archived race contest news article from said search results, and transmitting an archived race contest news article selected by said user through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said selected archived race news article is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said program data includes post times for said currently scheduled races, the method further comprising the steps of prompting said user to select a time zone for displaying post times for said currently scheduled races and causing said post times for said currently scheduled races to be expressed in a selected time zone when displayed to said user by said user terminal.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting said user to select a country before transmitting said race entry data and said race program data, said transmitted race entry data and said transmitted race program data identifying races from a country selected by said user.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting through said computer network to said user terminal a search board, wherein said search board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said search board prompting said user to select a search of said race program data and said race entry data for races having entries including a horse, jockey, or trainer, or combination thereof selected by said user; and

transmitting through said computer network to said user terminal results of a search selected by said user, wherein said results are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said results identifying races including a horse, jockey, or trainer entries, or combination thereof, selected by said user in said search.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of causing said search results to be organizable by track, date, race, class, purse, distance, surface, simulcast track, post position, post time, horse, weight, claim amount, equipment, medication, jockey, trainer, morning line odds, or horse owner, or combination thereof.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of prompting said user to

select a horse, a jockey, or a trainer from said search results and transmitting statistical data for a horse, jockey, or trainer selected by said user through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said statistical data are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to search said listing for races having at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be searchable for races having a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said race characteristic race includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number of runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse name, race number, restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, simulcast, or combination thereof.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of prompting said user to organize said search results according to at least one of said race characteristics and causing said search results to be organizable by said race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results organized by a race characteristic selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

23. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal,

wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to organize said listing by at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be organizable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein said race board organized by a race characteristic selected by said user is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number or runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, or simulcast.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of prompting said user to search said listing for races having at least one of said race characteristic and causing said listing to be searchable for races having a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

26. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

prompting said user to select a date within a predefined time period;

transmitting a track board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races at said tracks for a date selected by said user;

distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting said user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user

terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying said race program data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying said race entry data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

27. The method of claims 26, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said track board at predetermined time intervals.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein said statuses are distinguished by color.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as closed for wagering with no results available, open for wagering with live odds available, and open for wagering with no live odds available.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of transmitting live odds to said user terminal through said computer network if the status of said selected race is open for wagering with live odds available, wherein said live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal, and updating said live odds at predetermined time intervals.

31. A method of wagering on a contest, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a listing of at least one contest which has not been completed through a computer network to a user terminal, wherein said listing is displayed to a user by said user terminal;

prompting said user with said user terminal to select a contest from said listing;

prompting said user with said user terminal to select a wager on a contest selected by said user;

generating a code representing a wager selected by said user, wherein said code is displayed to said user by said user terminal; and

receiving said code representing said wager with a telephone wagering system.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein said code is an interactive voice response code and said telephone wagering system includes an interactive voice response wagering system.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of entering said interactive voice response code into a keypad of a touch tone telephone connected to said interactive voice response wagering system.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of receiving said interactive voice response code with said telephone wagering system through said computer network, converting said interactive voice response code into analog tones representing said code, and inputting said tones into said interactive voice response wagering system to register said wager.

35 The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of costing a wager selected by said user represented by said code, wherein a cost of said wage is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

36. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of transmitting live odds for said a contest selected by said user through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of transmitting opening odds for said contest through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said

opening odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein said contest is a horse racing contest, a dog racing contest, an automobile racing contest, a basketball contest, a football contest, a soccer contest, a hockey contest, a baseball contest, a golf contest, a tennis contest, or a jaialai contest.

39. The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of prompting said user with said user terminal through said computer network to select a contest and transmitting video of a contest selected by said user to said user terminal through said computer network, wherein said video is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein said video is a stored prerecorded video clip of said selected contest.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said video is displayed to said user by said user terminal substantially as said video is received by said user terminal.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein a contest selected by said user is a contest that has yet been completed and said video is live video of said selected contest.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein said video is transmitted to said user terminal if said user has placed a wager on a contest selected by said user.

44. The method of claim 31, wherein said contest is a horse racing contest.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the step of transmitting said listing includes the steps of:

transmitting race entry data through a computer network to a user terminal, wherein said race entry data are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race entry data including a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of scheduled races at each of said tracks, and a listing of original entries in each of said races;

transmitting race program data through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race program data are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race program data including a listing of a plurality of tracks, a listing of currently scheduled races at each of said tracks, and a listing of current entries in each of said races;

transmitting live odds through said computer network to said user terminal for races included within said race program data which are open for wagering and for which live odds are available, wherein said live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal; and

updating through said computer network said live odds transmitted to said user terminal at predetermined time intervals, wherein said updated live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein said program data includes post times for said currently scheduled races, the method further comprising the steps of prompting said user to select a time zone for displaying post times for said currently scheduled races and causing said post times for said currently scheduled races to be expressed in a selected time zone when displayed to said user by said user terminal.

47. The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of prompting said user to select a country before transmitting said race entry data and race program data, said transmitted race entry data and said transmitted race program data identifying races from a country selected by said user.

48. The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting through said computer network to said user terminal a search board, wherein said search board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said search board prompting said user to select a search of racing data for races having entries including a horse, jockey, trainer, or combination thereof selected by said user; and

transmitting through said computer network to said user terminal results of a search selected by said user, wherein said results are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said results identifying races including a horse, jockey, or trainer, or combination thereof, selected by said user in said search.

49. The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to search said listing for races having at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be searchable for races having a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number of runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, simulcast, or combination thereof.

51. The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to organize said listing by at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be organizable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein said race board organized by a race characteristic selected by said user is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number or runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, or simulcast.

53. The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

prompting said user to select a date within a predefined time period;

transmitting a track board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races at said tracks for a date selected by said user;

distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting said user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying said race program data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying said race entry data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

54. The method of claims 44, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said track board at predetermined time intervals.

55. The method of claim 44, wherein said statuses are distinguished by color.

56. A method of wagering on a contest, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a listing of at least one contest which has not been completed through a computer network to a user terminal, wherein said listing is displayed to a user by said user terminal;

prompting said user with said user terminal to select a contest from said listing;

transmitting wagering data for a contest selected by said user through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said wagering data are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said wagering data including live odds for said contest;

prompting said user with said user terminal to select a wager on a contest selected by said user; and

receiving a wager selected by said user from said user terminal through said computer network.

57. The method of claims 56, further comprising the steps of maintaining a wagering account for said user and adjusting said wagering account to reflect an outcome of said wager selected by said user.

58. The method of claim 56, wherein said contest is a horse racing contest, a dog racing contest, an automobile racing contest, a basketball contest, a football contest, a soccer contest, a hockey contest, a baseball contest, a golf contest, a tennis contest, or a jaialai contest.

59. The method of claim 56, wherein said wagering data further comprises opening odds.

60. The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of updating said live odds at predetermined time intervals, wherein said updated live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

61. A method of providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting through said computer network to a user terminal a search board, wherein said search board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said search board prompting said user to select a search of racing data for races having entries including a horse, jockey, or trainer or combination thereof selected by said user; and

transmitting through said computer network to said user terminal results of a search selected by said user, wherein said results are displayed to said user by said user terminal, said results identifying races including a horse, jockey, or trainer or combination thereof selected by said user in said search.

62. The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of causing said search results to be organizable by track, date, race, class, purse, distance, surface, simulcast track, post position, horse, weight, claim amount, equipment, medication, jockey, trainer, morning line odds, or horse owner, or combination thereof.

63. The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of prompting said user to select a horse, a jockey, or a trainer from said search results and transmitting statistical data for a horse, jockey, or trainer selected by said user through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said statistical data are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

64. The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal,

wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to search said listing for races having at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be searchable for races having a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

65. The method of claim 64, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number of runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, simulcast, or combination thereof.

66. The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to organize said listing by at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be organizable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein said race board organized by a race characteristic selected by said user is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number or runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, or simulcast.

68. The method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of:

prompting said user to select a date within a predefined time period;

transmitting a track board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races at said tracks for a date selected by said user;

distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting said user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying said race program data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying said race entry data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

69. The method of claims 68, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said track board at predetermined time intervals.

70. A method of providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to search said listing according to at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be searchable for races having a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein said preselected race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number of runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, simulcast, or combination thereof.

72. The method of claim 71, further comprising the steps of prompting said user to organize said search results according to at least one of said race characteristics, and causing said search results to be organizable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results organized by an organization selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

73. The method of claim 70, further comprising the steps of:

prompting said user to select a date within a predefined time period;

transmitting a track board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races at said tracks for a date selected by said user;

distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting said user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying said race program data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying said race entry data for a race selected to said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

74. The method of claims 73, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said track board at predetermined time intervals.

75. A method of providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a race board through said computer network to said user terminal, wherein said race board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said race board including a listing of a plurality of races scheduled for a predetermined period of time;

prompting said user to organize said race board according to at least one race characteristic; and

causing said listing to be organizable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein said race board organized by a race characteristic selected by said user is displayed to said user by said user terminal.

76. The method of claim 75, wherein said race characteristic includes race class, race sub-class, race age, distance, surface, number or runners, breed, sex, race name, post-time, track name, purse value, race number, race restrictions, claim minimum, claim maximum, chute, or simulcast.

77. The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of prompting said user to search said race board for races by at least one of said race characteristics and causing said race board to be searchable by a race characteristic selected by said user, wherein search results from a search selected by said user are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

78. The method of claim 75, further comprising the steps of:

prompting said user to select a date within a predetermined time period;

transmitting a track board through said computer network to said user terminal,

wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races at said tracks for a date selected by said user;

distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting a user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying said race program data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying said race entry data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

79. The method of claims 78, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said track board at predetermined time intervals.

80. A method of providing wagering data for a race contest to a user through a computer network, comprising the step of:

transmitting a track board through said computer network to a user terminal, wherein said track board is displayed to said user by said user terminal, said track board including a listing of tracks and a listing of races scheduled at said tracks for a date within a predetermined time period, said races distinguished from each other to said user by status as completed, open for wagering, and not yet open for wagering;

prompting said user to select a race from a track in said listing;

displaying results data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is completed;

displaying race program data and odds data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is open for wagering; and

displaying race entry data for a race selected by said user to said user with said user terminal if the status of said selected race is not yet open for wagering.

81. The method of claims 80, further comprising the steps of updating the statuses of said races on said status board at predetermined time intervals.

82. The method of claim 80, wherein said statuses are distinguished by color.

83. The method of claim 80, wherein said track board includes weather condition data for at least one track.

84. The method of claim 80, wherein said odds data include live odds, the method further comprising the step of updating said live odds at predetermined time intervals, wherein updated live odds are displayed to said user by said user terminal.

85. The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of distinguishing said races from each other to said user by status as closed for wagering with results not yet available, open for wagering with live odds available, and open for wagering with live odds not available.

86. An interactive wagering system comprising:

a server accessible through a computer network for providing wagering services, said server comprising:

means for connecting to said computer network;

means for transmitting a listing of at least one contest which has not been completed through said computer network to a user terminal, wherein said listing is displayed to a user by said user terminal;

means for prompting said user to select with said user terminal a contest

means for transmitting live odds through said computer network for races included within said race program data which are open for wagering and for which live odds are available; and

means for updating through said computer network said live odds said live odds transmitted to said user terminal at predetermined time intervals.

90. The method of claim 86, further comprising means for storing a video clip of a contest and means for transmitting said stored video clip through said computer network to said user terminal.

91. The method of claim 86, further comprising means for providing live video of a contest through said computer network to said user terminal.

Attorney Docket No.: W1200-00034

ABSTRACT

A method and system for providing wagering data for contest through a computer network provides live odds on a selected contest to a user terminal. Wagering data including race entry and race program data are transmitted to a user terminal through a computer network and displayed to a user by the user terminal. The wagering data are organizable and searchable. The user may select a wager on a contest and an interactive voice response code and cost of the selected wager are generated and displayed to the user. The wager may be placed by transmitting the code to a telephone wagering system through a telephone network or through the computer network.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

DOCKET ALARM

10

Figure 1

Figure 2

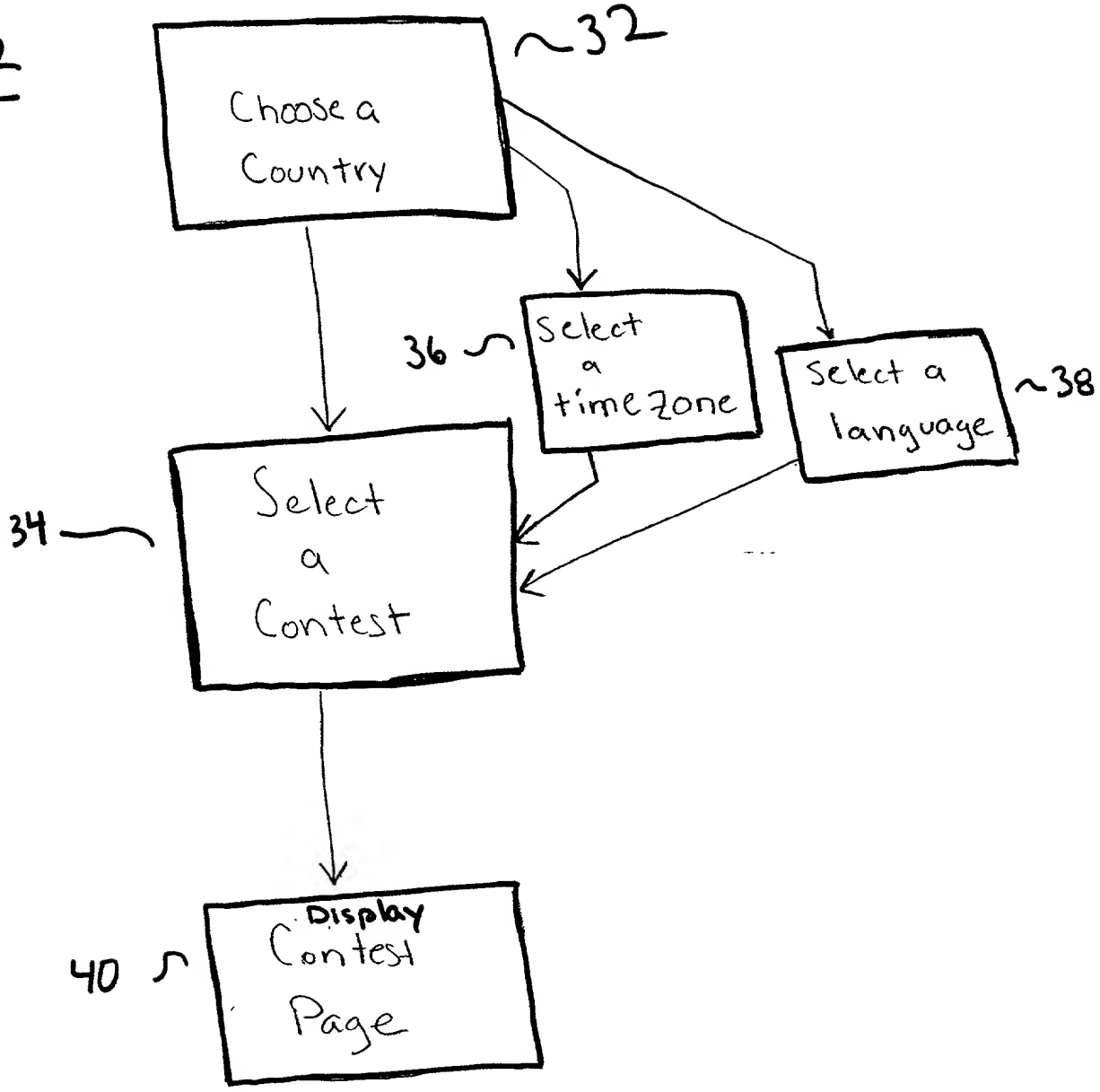
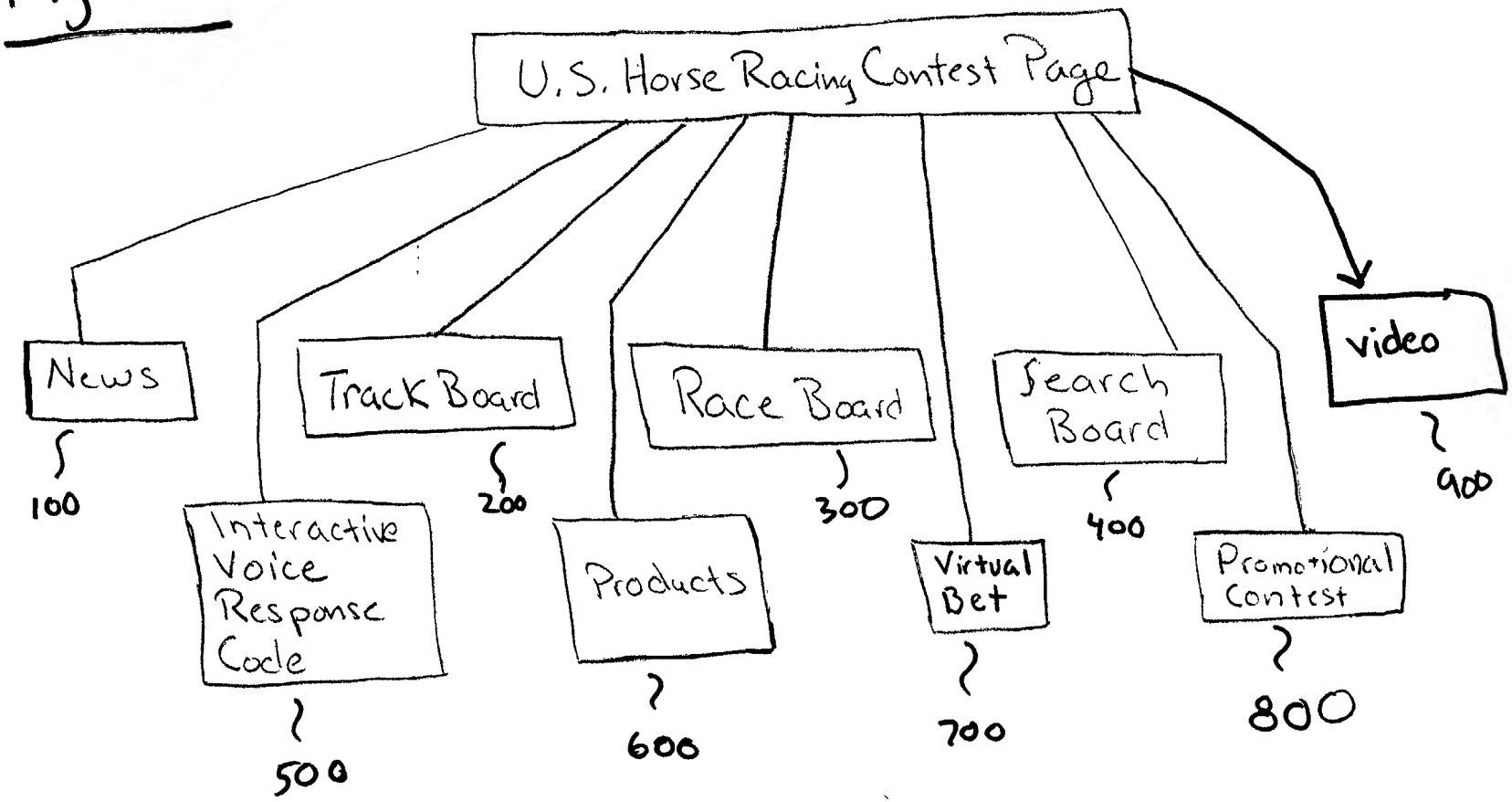

Choose a Country
32
Select a timeZone
36
Select a language
38
Select a Contest
34
Display Contest Page
40

Figure 3



09703171 .103100

Figure 4

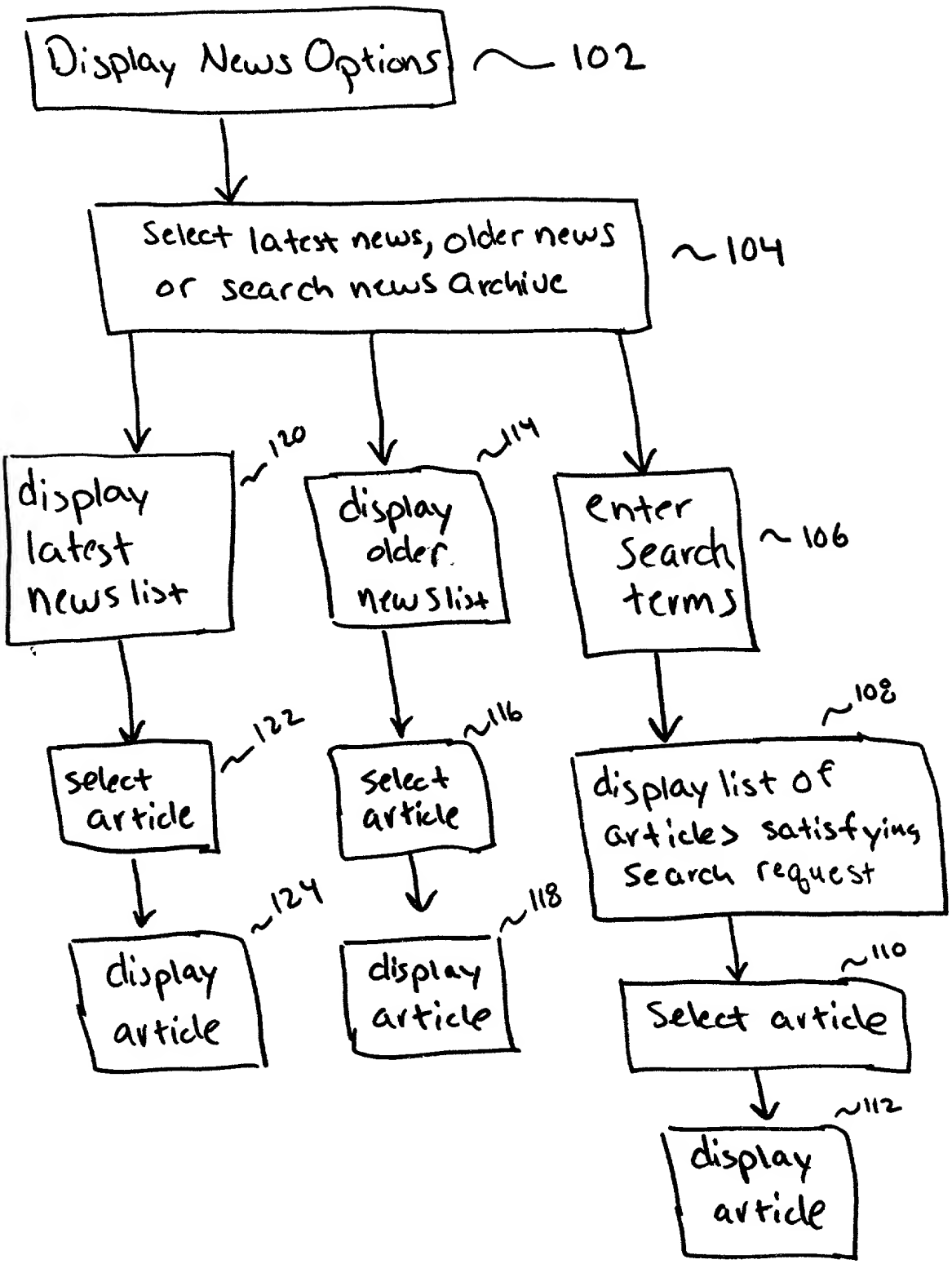

Display News Options
102
Select latest news, older news or search news archive
104
display latest news list
120
display older news list
114
enter search terms
106
select article
122
select article
116
display list of articles satisfying search request
108
display article
124
display article
118
Select article
110
display article
112

Figure 5

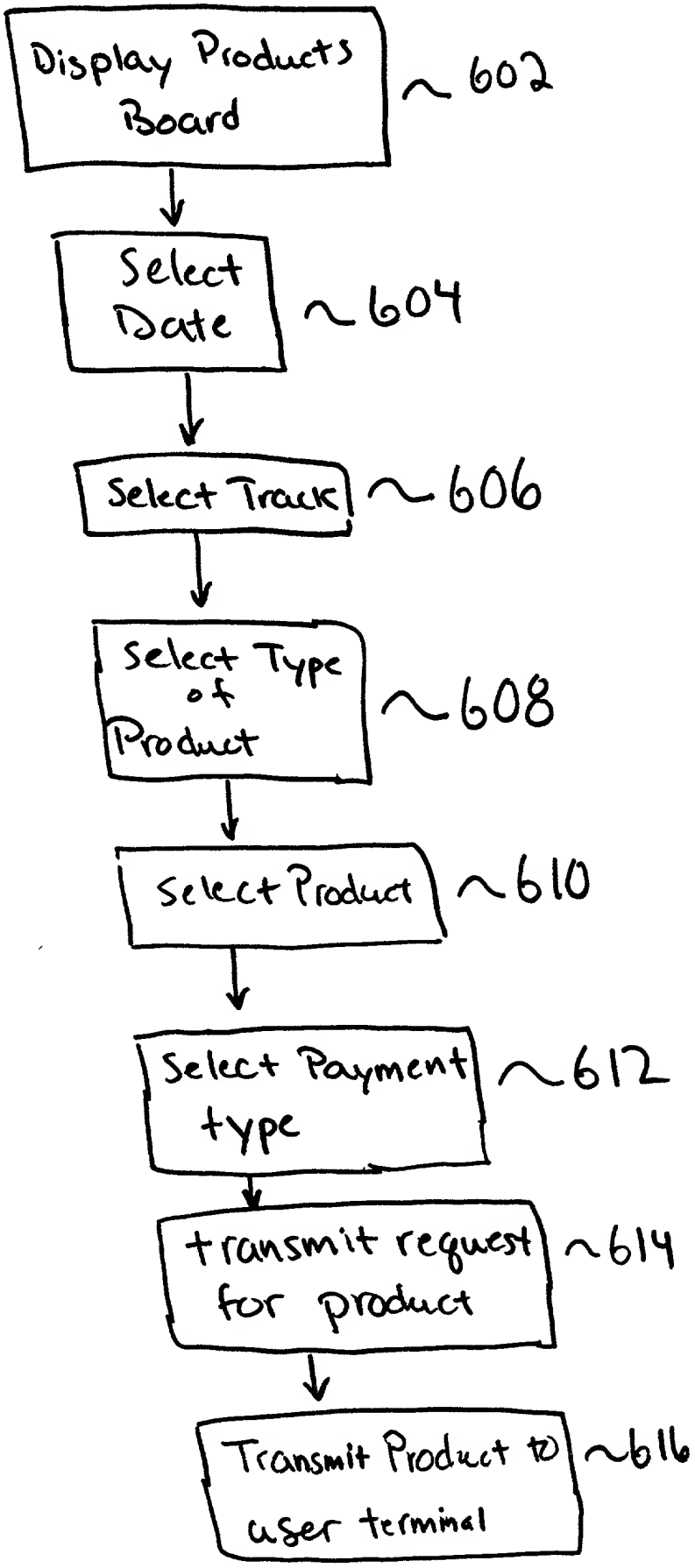
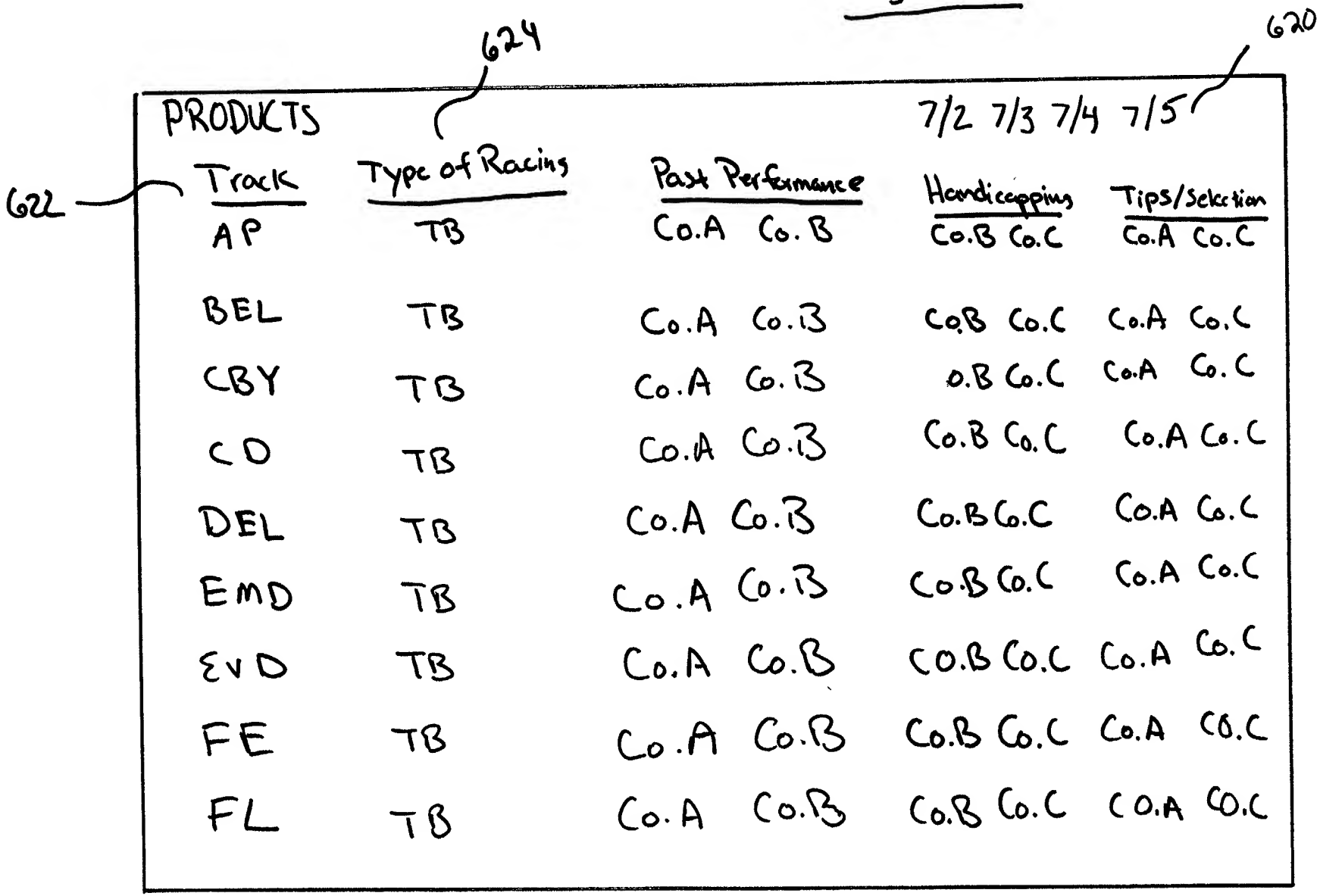
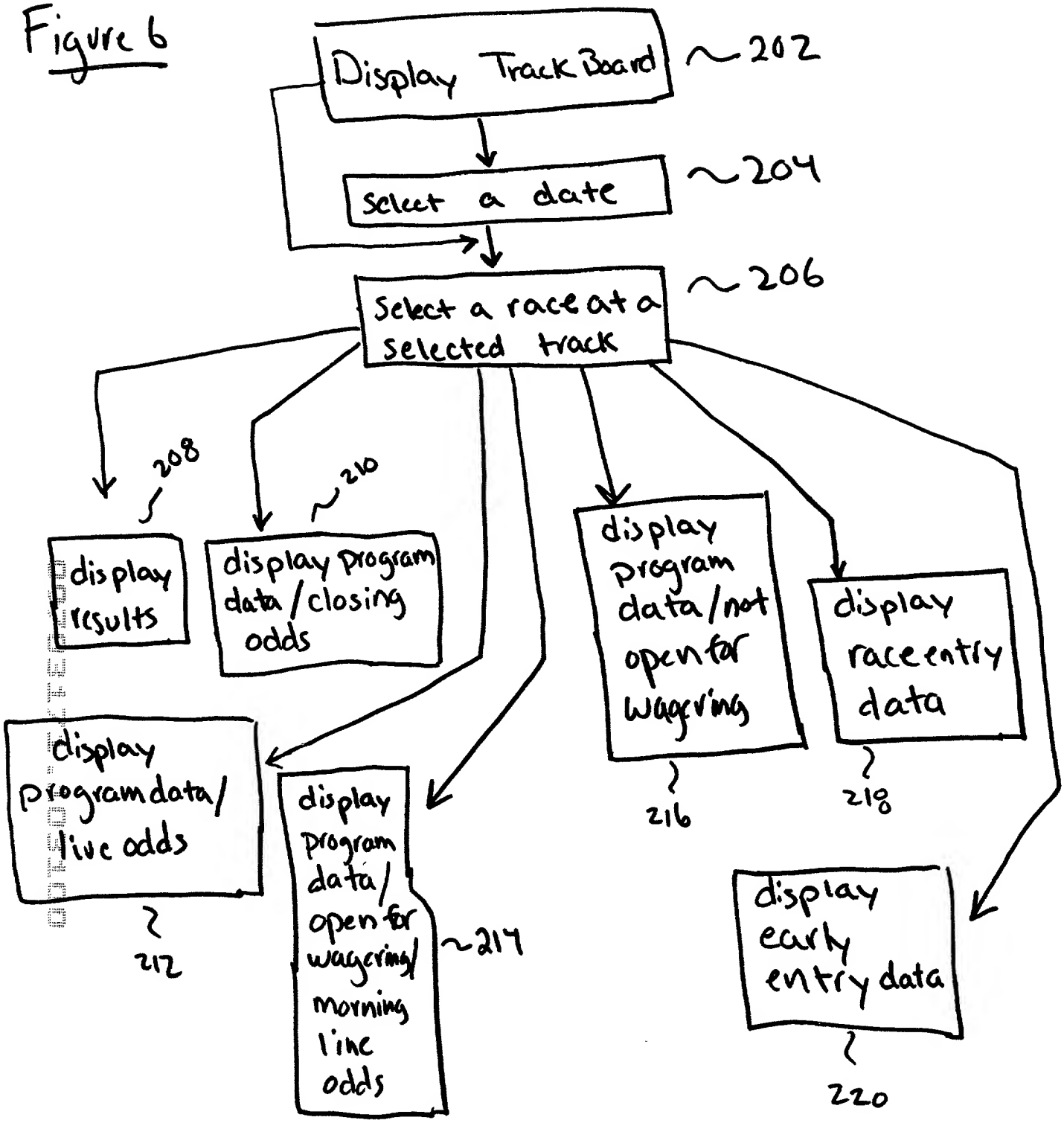

Display Products Board
602
Select Date
604
Select Track
606
Select Type of Product
608
Select Product
610
Select Payment type
612
transmit request for product
614
Transmit Product to user terminal
616

Figure 5A



09703171 . 103100

Figure 6


Display Track Board
202
Select a date
204
Select a race at a selected track
206
208
display results
210
display program data / closing odds
display program data / live odds
212
display program data / open for wagering / morning line odds
214
display program data / not open for wagering
216
display race entry data
218
display early entry data
220

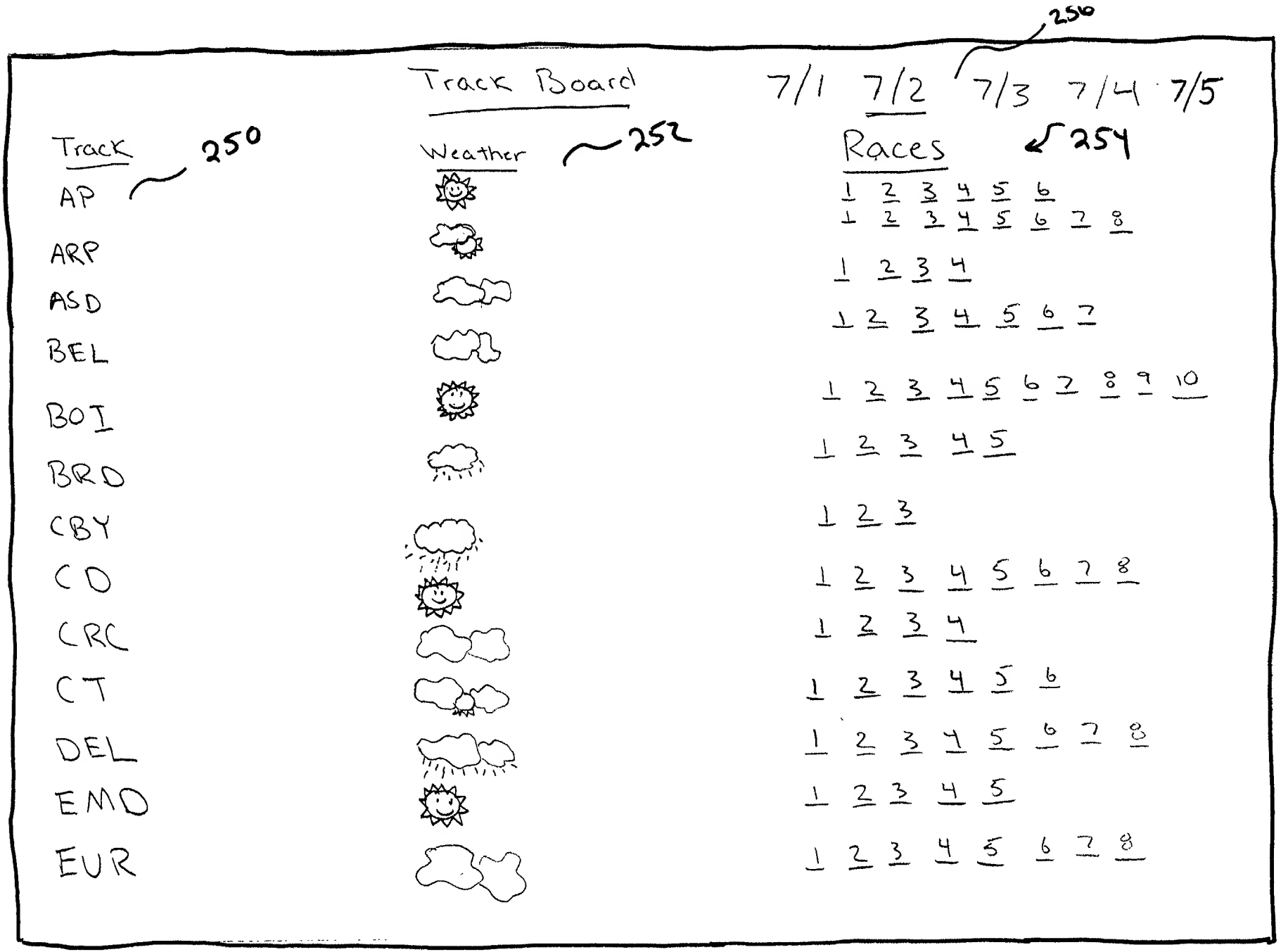


Figure 7

09703171 .103100

Figure 8A

Results for July 2 Sunday
Track:Delaware Park (DEL) 13th Race
Class:MCL Purse:17000 Distance:5 1/2F Age:02 Sex: No Restriction

Post Time: 10:45AM

Prog#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Win	Place	Show
3	Realhandsome	Black,Anthony	Pecoraro,Anthony	22.40	6.80	4.80
6	Petes Seven Eleven	Wilson,Rick	Allard,Edward	0	3.70	3.00
1	Minie Minie Coyote	Unsikuay,Esteban	Stodghill,Jason	0	0	4.10

Bet Type (24)	Winners	Amount
EX	3,6	75.00
TRI	3,6,1	439.50
P03	1,3,3	809.00

260

Figure 8B

Entries for July 2 Sunday
Track:Arlington (AP) 5th Race
Class:ALW-NW2 Purse:40000 Distance:1 1/16M Age:3U Sex:B

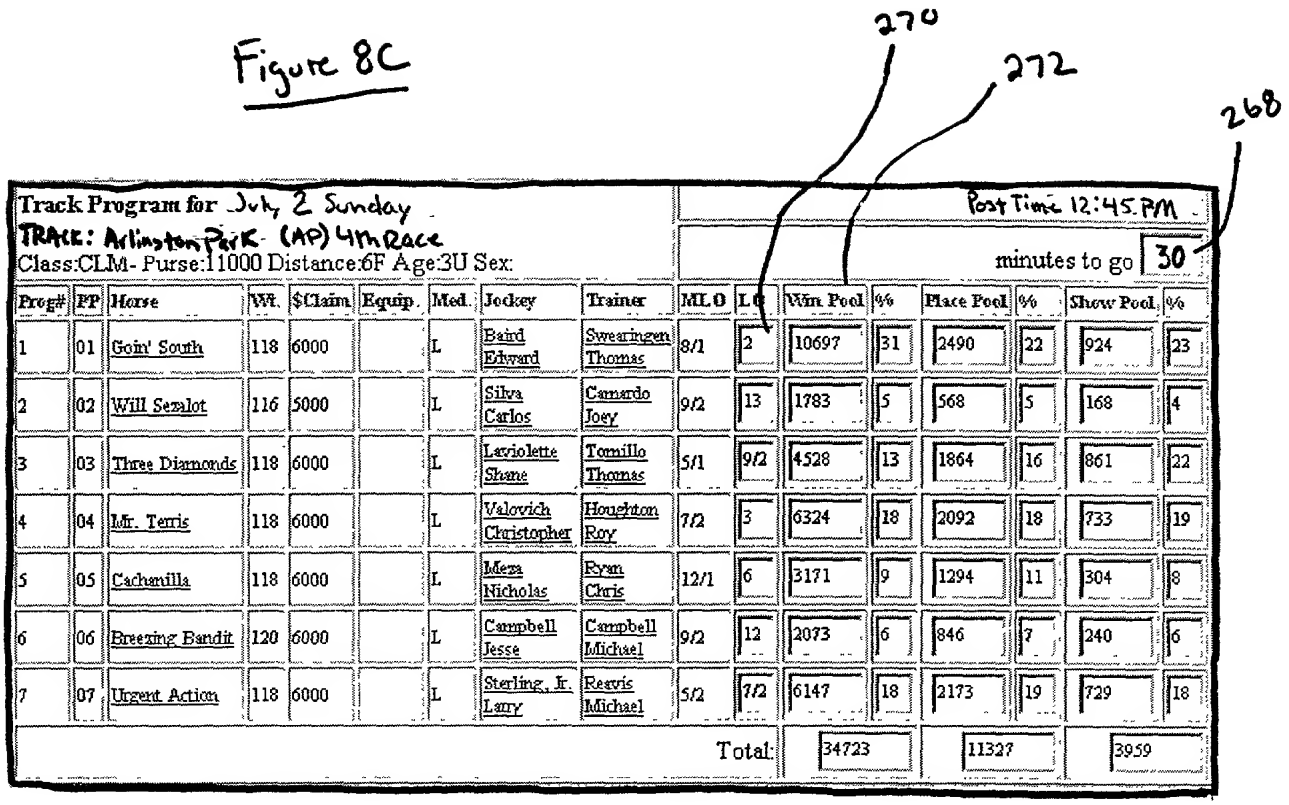
Post Time: 2:51PM

Open for wagering

Prog#	PP	Horse	ML O	Wt.	$ Claim	Equip.	Med.	Jockey	Trainer
4	04	Whoozie	5/1	116	0	—	L	Meche,Lonnie	Amoss,Thomas
2	02	Faccia Bella	5/1	116	0	—	L	Sampson,Kelly	Miller,Danny
3	03	Golden Temper	8/5	116	0	—		Guidry,Mark	Walden,W.
5	05	Table the Motion	3/1	116	0	—	L	Laviolette,Shane	Randazzo, Jr.,Frank
1	01	Isle Be Loving You	7/2	122	0	—	L	Doocy,Timothy	Holthus,Robert
6	06	Twilight Aurora	10/1	116	0	—	L	Razo, Jr.,Eusebio	Weissman,Michael

266 262 264

Figure 8C



Track Program for July 2 Sunday — Post Time 12:45 PM

TRACK: Arlington Park (AP) 4th Race — minutes to go 30

Class:CLM- Purse:11000 Distance:6F Age:3U Sex:

Prog#	PP	Horse	Wt.	$Claim	Equip.	Med.	Jockey	Trainer	ML O	L O	Win Pool	%	Place Pool	%	Show Pool	%
1	01	Goin' South	118	6000		L	Baird Edward	Swearingen Thomas	8/1	2	10697	31	2490	22	924	23
2	02	Will Sexalot	116	5000		L	Silva Carlos	Camardo Joey	9/2	13	1783	5	568	5	168	4
3	03	Three Diamonds	118	6000		L	Laviolette Shane	Tomillo Thomas	5/1	9/2	4528	13	1864	16	861	22
4	04	Mr. Terris	118	6000		L	Valovich Christopher	Houghton Roy	7/2	3	6324	18	2092	18	733	19
5	05	Cachanilla	118	6000		L	Mena Nicholas	Ryan Chris	12/1	6	3171	9	1294	11	304	8
6	06	Breezing Bandit	120	6000		L	Campbell Jesse	Campbell Michael	9/2	12	2073	6	846	7	240	6
7	07	Urgent Action	118	6000		L	Sterling, Jr. Larry	Reavis Michael	5/2	7/2	6147	18	2173	19	729	18
										Total:	34723		11327		3959	

Figure 8D

Entries for July 4 Tuesday — Post Time: 1:0

Track:Arlington (AP) 1st Race

Class:CLM- Purse:30500 Distance:1M Age:3U Sex:

PP	Horse	ML O	Wt.	$ Claim	Equip.	Med.	Jockey	Trainer
03	Minkond	5/1	120	35000	—	L	Molina,Tommy	Tomillo,Thomas
04	Paddy's Spy	5/1	118	35000	—	L	La Sala,Jerry	Ahrens,Leslie
06	Rhonesquarterswish	8/5	118	35000	—	L	Juarez, Jr.,Alfredo	Campisano,Rona
02	The Bold Bruiser	4/1	118	35000	—	L	Albarado,Robby	Dini,Mike
05	Steel City	8/1	108	35000	—	L	Cadman,Zoe	Poulos,Dee
01	Hawaiin Lord (CHI)	7/2	118	35000	—	L	Guidry,Mark	Wiggins,Lon

Figure 9

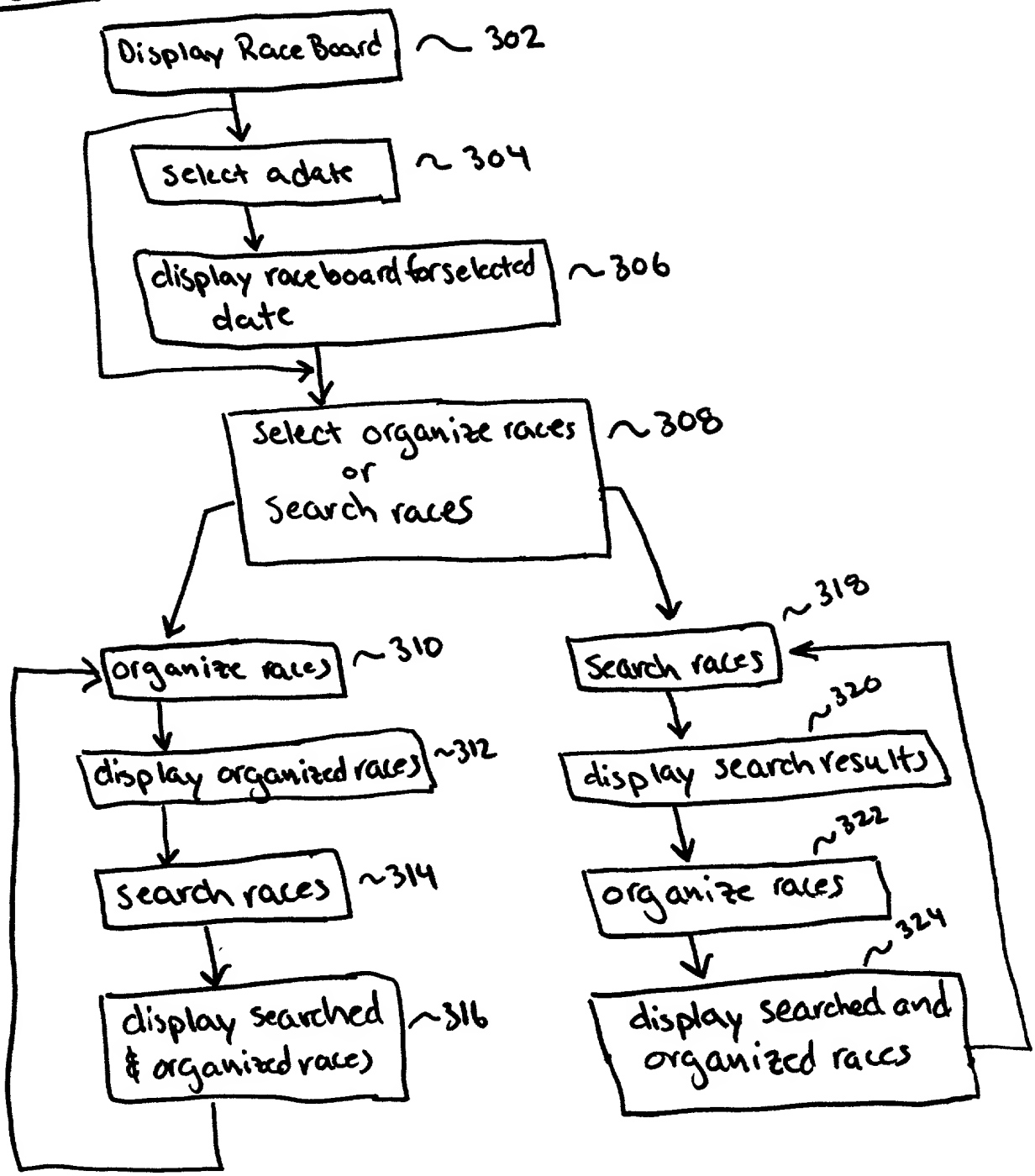
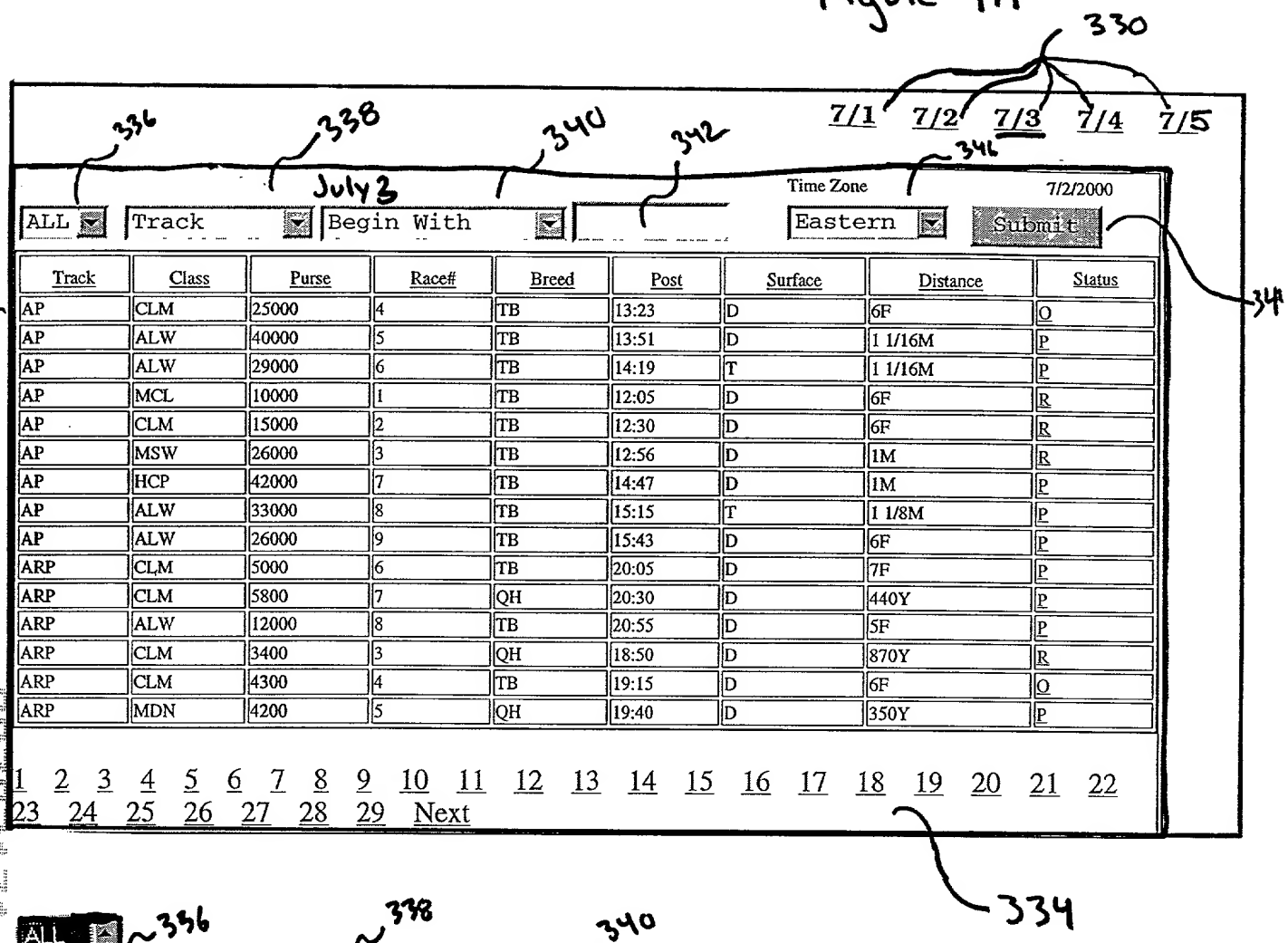

Display Race Board
302
Select a date
304
display race board for selected date
306
Select organize races or Search races
308
organize races
310
display organized races
312
search races
314
display searched & organized races
316
Search races
318
display search results
320
organize races
322
display searched and organized races
324

Figure 9A



Track	Class	Purse	Race#	Breed	Post	Surface	Distance	Status
AP	CLM	25000	4	TB	13:23	D	6F	O
AP	ALW	40000	5	TB	13:51	D	1 1/16M	P
AP	ALW	29000	6	TB	14:19	T	1 1/16M	P
AP	MCL	10000	1	TB	12:05	D	6F	R
AP	CLM	15000	2	TB	12:30	D	6F	R
AP	MSW	26000	3	TB	12:56	D	1M	R
AP	HCP	42000	7	TB	14:47	D	1M	P
AP	ALW	33000	8	TB	15:15	T	1 1/8M	P
AP	ALW	26000	9	TB	15:43	D	6F	P
ARP	CLM	5000	6	TB	20:05	D	7F	P
ARP	CLM	5800	7	QH	20:30	D	440Y	P
ARP	ALW	12000	8	TB	20:55	D	5F	P
ARP	CLM	3400	3	QH	18:50	D	870Y	R
ARP	CLM	4300	4	TB	19:15	D	6F	O
ARP	MDN	4200	5	QH	19:40	D	350Y	P

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 Next

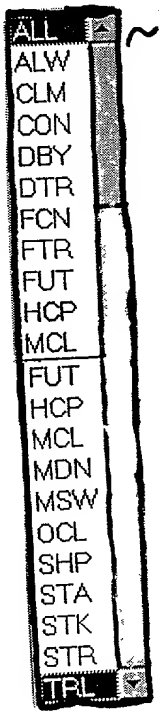


Figure 9B

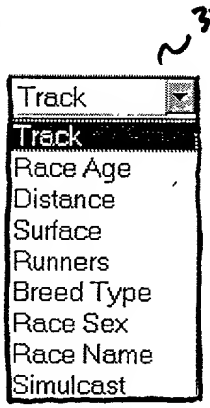


Figure 9C

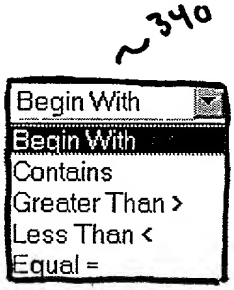


Figure 9D

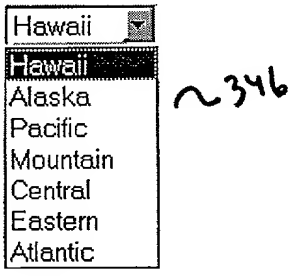


Figure 9E

Figure 10

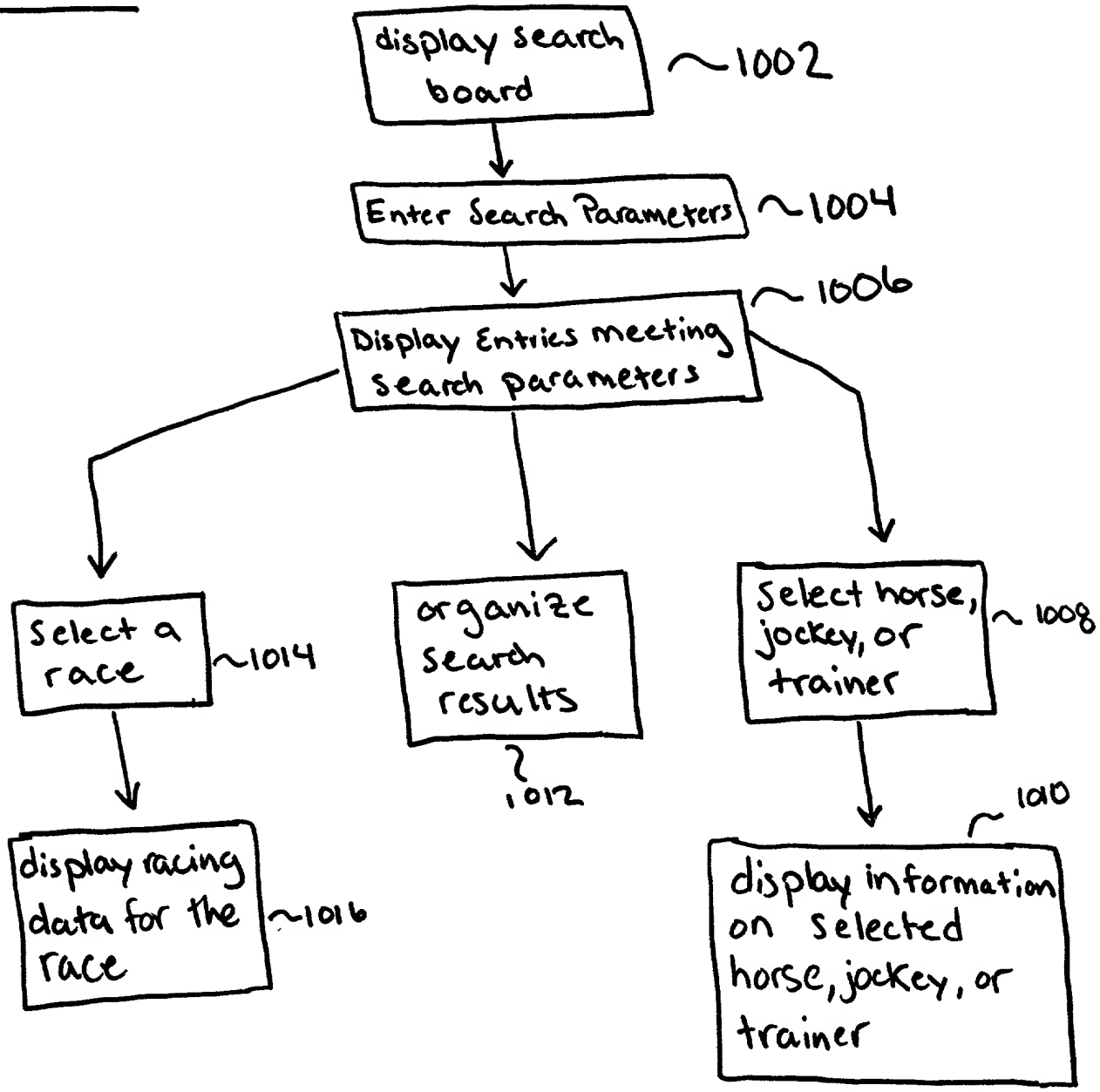
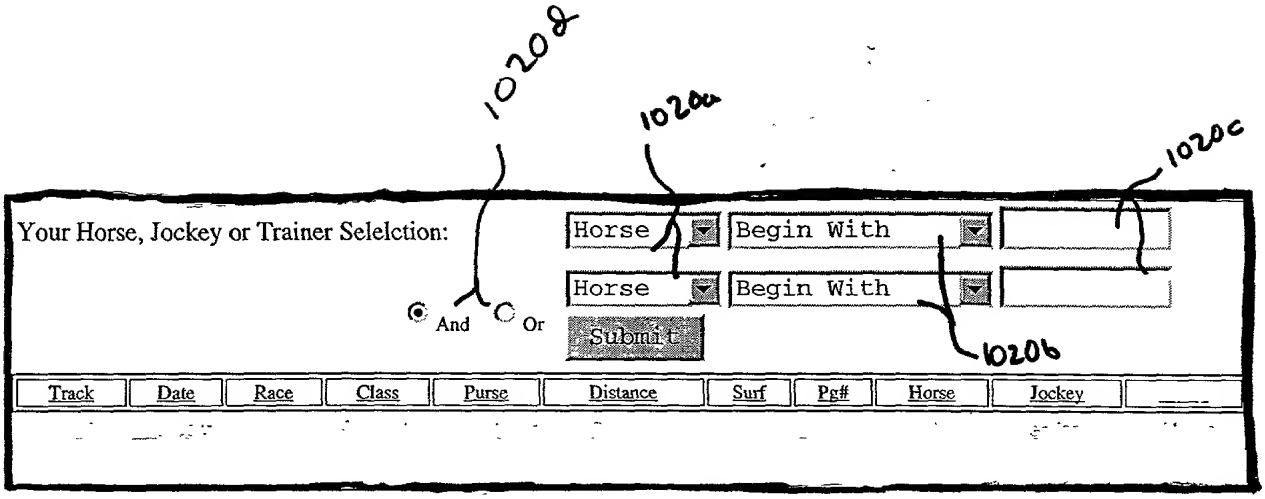

display search board
1002
Enter Search Parameters
1004
Display Entries meeting search parameters
1006
Select a race
1014
organize search results
1012
Select horse, jockey, or trainer
1008
display racing data for the race
1016
display information on selected horse, jockey, or trainer
1010

Figure 10A



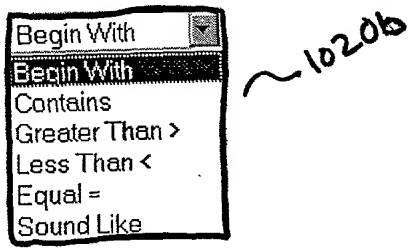


Figure 10B

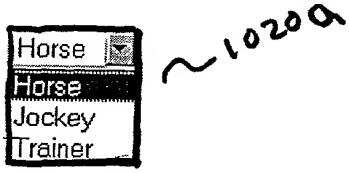


Figure 10C

Figure 11

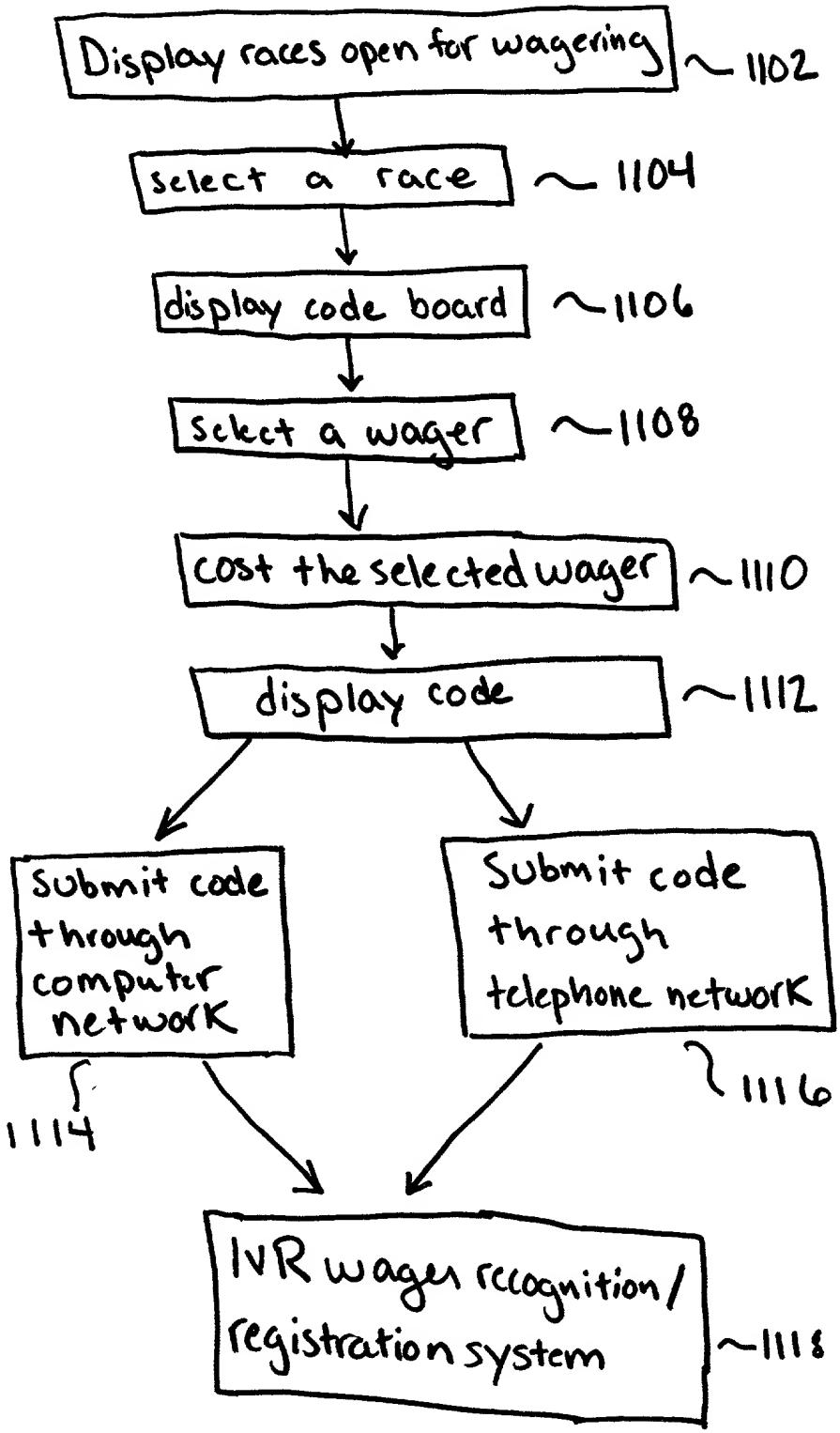

Display races open for wagering
1102
select a race
1104
display code board
1106
select a wager
1108
cost the selected wager
1110
display code
1112
Submit code through computer network
1114
Submit code through telephone network
1116
IVR wager recognition/ registration system
1118

Figure 11A

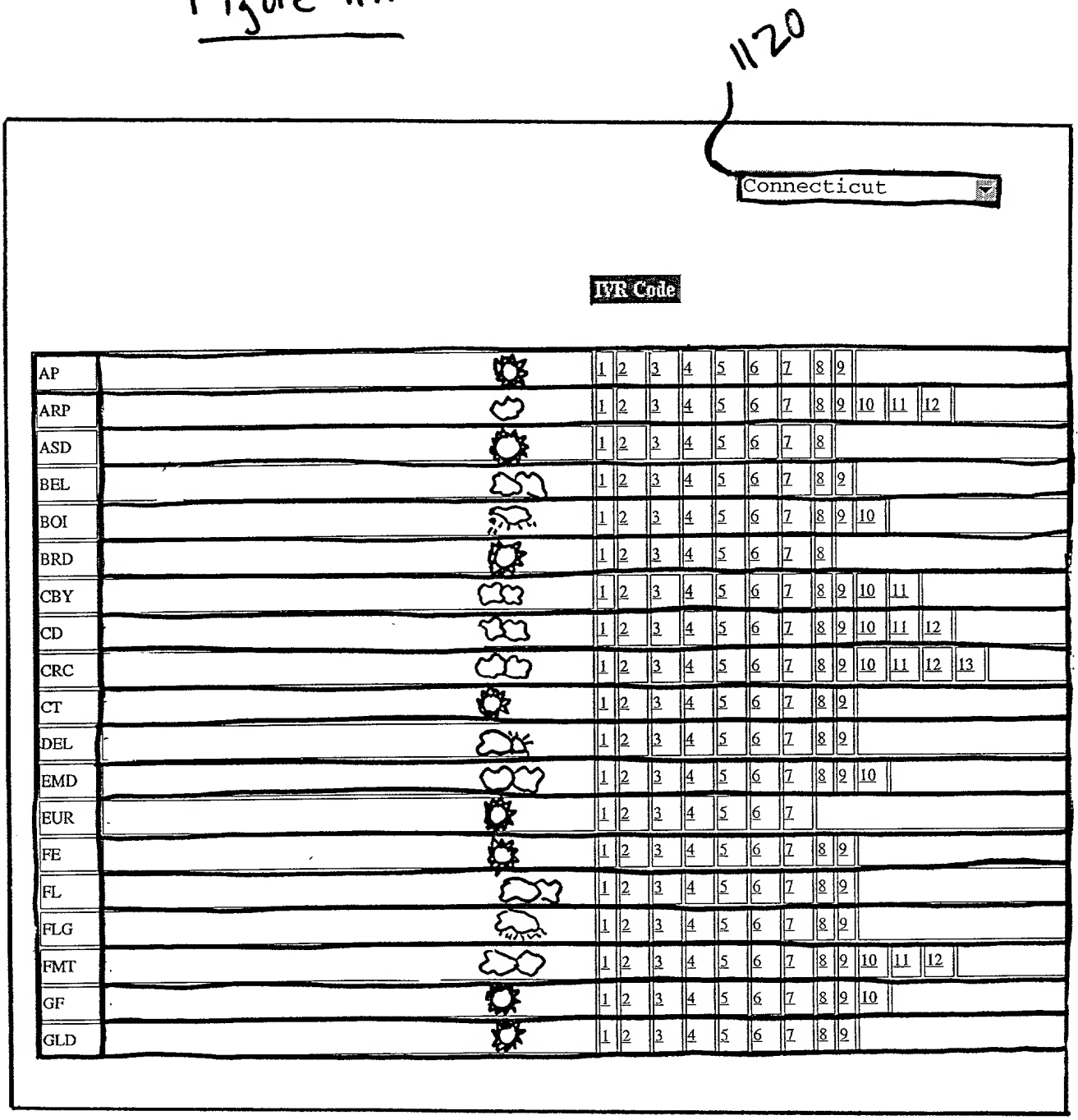

1120
Connecticut
IVR Code
AP 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
ARP 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
ASD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
BEL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
BOI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
BRD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
CBY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
CD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
CRC 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
CT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
DEL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
EMD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
EUR 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
FE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
FL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
FLG 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
FMT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
GF 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
GLD 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Figure 11B

Track:AP Race:4 Amount of Wager: $2 (1030) Bet Type: QBX (1034) Go

IVR Code: #369#4#2#11#1*2*3*4 (1022; 1023, 1024, 1026) Total Bets/Wagers: 6 Bets Total $12 (1036) with (1038) MoreInfo (1040) Finish

Track Program for July 2 Sunday
Track:Arlington Park(AP) 4th Race
Class:CLM- Purse:25000 Distance:6F Age:3U Sex: Open

Post Time2:23PM
minutes to go: 50

Prog#	PP	Horse	Wt.	$ Claim	Equip.	Med.	Jockey	Trainer	ML O	Live Odds
1	1	Spark Setter	118	25000		L	Valovich,Christopher	Wood,David	10/1	10/1
2	2	Lecture	118	25000		L	Molina,Tommy	Tomillo,Thomas	3/1	3/1
3	3	Osage Indian	118	25000		L	Doocy,Timothy	Von Hemel,Don	15/1	15/1
4	4	Daisy Junebug	118	25000		L	Silva,Carlos	Ely,Janice	15/1	15/1
5	5	Chief Justin	120	25000		L	Zimmerman,Ramsey	Hinsley,David	10/1	10/1
6	6	Jaguar Key	118	25000		L	Guidry,Mark	Swearingen,Thomas	4/1	4/1
7	7	Nasty Bob	118	25000		L	Juarez, Jr.,Alfredo	Goodridge,Ronald	8/1	8/1
8	8	Jantzer	120	25000		L	Razo, Jr.,Eusebio	Razo,Eusebio	5/1	5/1
9	9	Gold Bandit	118	25000		L	Emigh,Christopher	Robertson,Hugh	12/1	12/1
10	10	Locker Room	118	25000	B	L	Perez,Eduardo	Cristel,Mark	15/1	15/1
11	11	Ambivilent Force	118	25000		L	Sterling, Jr.,Larry	Miller,Danny	30/1	30/1
12	12	Deuce Court	118	25000		L	Laviolette,Shane	Martin,Randy	8/1	8/1

(1028)

Patent Application Publication Dec. 14, 2006 Sheet 10 of 19 US 2006/0281528 A1

1030

$ 2
$ 2
$ 3
$ 4
$ 5
$ 10
$ 15
$ 20
$ 25
$ 30
$ 35
$ 45
$ 50
$ 75
$ 100
$ 150

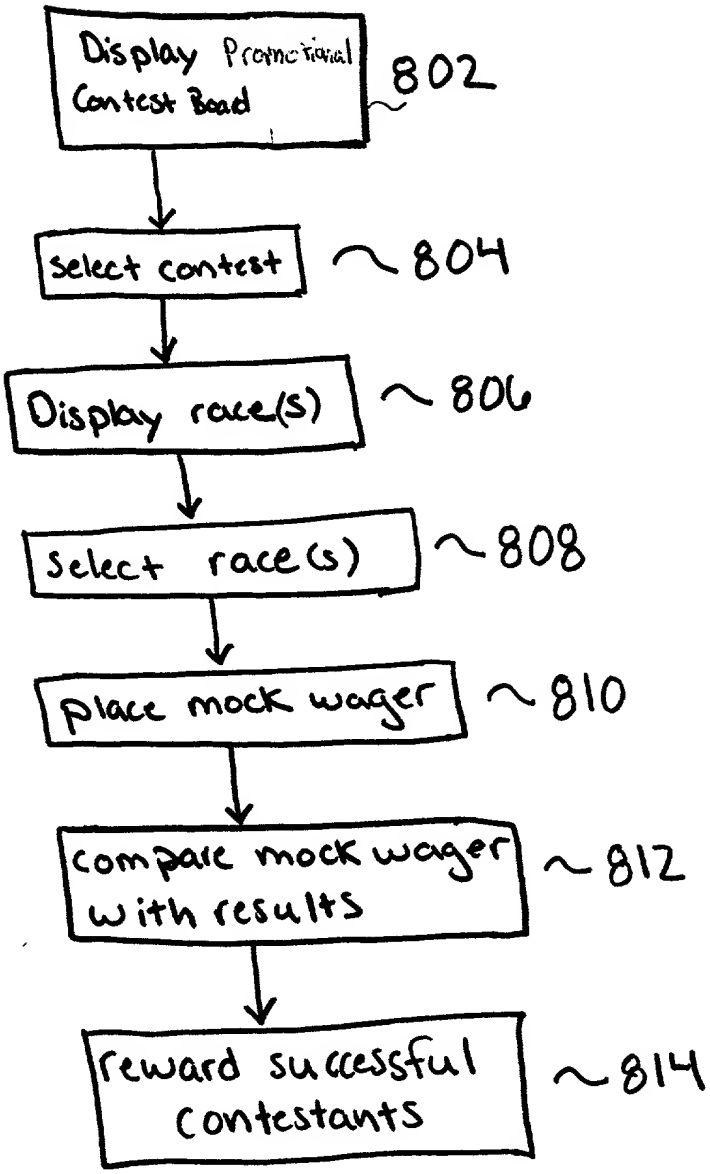
Figure 11C

1034

Win
Win
Place
Show
WP
WPS
EXA
EBX
QNL
QBX
DBL
TRI
TBX
PK3
PK9
SUP
SUX
DQN
PK6
WS

Figure 11D

Figure 12


Display Promotional Contest Board
802
Select contest
804
Display race(s)
806
Select race(s)
808
place mock wager
810
compare mock wager with results
812
reward successful contestants
814

820

Figure 12A

Select contest you want to particpate COMPANY A

Track	Class	SubClass	Age	Sex	Purse	Race#	Runners	Breed	Post	Surface	Distance	Restrict	ClamMin	ClmMax	Chute	Odds	Select
AP	CLM	NW2	3U	B	15000	2	12	TB	12:30	D	6F		16000	16000		PRO	☐
BEL	MSW		3U		41000	4	11	TB	15:38	D	7F	S	0	0		PRO	☐
CT	CLM	NW3	3U	B	9600	2	9	TB	17:27	D	1 1/16M		4500	5000		PRO	☐

820

COMPANY A
COMPANY B
COMPANY C
COMPANY D

Figure 12B

Figure 13

Display video options ~ 902

Select video to be displayed ~ 904

Transmit Video ~ 906

Display Video ~ 908

Express Mail Label: EL554220927US ATTORNEY DOCKET: W1200-00034

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and

I verily believe that I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **INTERACTIVE INTERNET WAGERING SYSTEM**, the specification of which:

[X] is attached hereto.

[ ] was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____. (If applicable.)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any Amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of any application on which priority is claimed:

Country	Number	Date Filed	Priority Claimed ?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	**Filed**		**Patented or Pending ?**
_____	____	____	_____
_____	____	____	_____

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, of the law firm **DUANE, MORRIS & HECKSCHER LLP**, One Liberty Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith,

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Attorney Docket No. W1200-00034

Express Mail Label: EL554220927US **ATTORNEY DOCKET: W1200-00034**

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